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OPINION METER This week's poll:

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INSIDE

NATION



A sea of revelers cheered as New York City's Times Square ring in 2014.

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LIFE & STYLE



NASA takes issue with Beyoncé for song that features a sample of the Challenger disaster.

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German couple builds 'green dream house' on Rota. **PAGE 2**
NMI celebrates peaceful holidays; only 1 DUI arrest. **PAGE 3**

8-lb Ilia'mae is New Year baby



By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A bouncing baby girl named Ilia'mae Muña is the CNMI's New Year baby after coming into this world early morning yesterday, Jan. 1.

Baby Ilia'mae was among other newborns at the Commonwealth Health Center but she was the lucky one to be delivered first in 2014.

According to attending physician Dr. Ashlee Weimer, it was around noon on Dec. 31 when pregnant Nenita Annie Rose Kaipat-Romolor was admitted to the hospital. She was not expected to deliver first as two other pregnant

mothers have already been in labor before she came in.

"We thought it's the other one who will deliver the first baby, but she pushed it very well," the doctor said about Nenita Annie Rose.

Baby Ilia'mae was born healthy, according to the doctor. Based on CHC's record, she was

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CK, Susupe crime capital indeed

» DPS statistics show most number of burglaries, thefts, and disturbances in these areas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's crime statistics for 2013 showed that Chalan Kanoa and Susupe are indeed the crime capital of Saipan.

According to DPS statistics released to the media, there were 3,105 criminal offenses reported last year, and most of the crimes or 1,129 were burglaries, robberies, and thefts.

Obama: 2014 'can be breakthrough year for America'

By STEVEN R. HURST
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama shrugged off his deep dip in polling among the American people,

telling a year-end news conference, "We screwed it up" in launching his health care overhaul but saying the country is poised in the coming year "to do very good things."

With his standing in the polls at or near record lows, Obama on Friday acknowledged frustration that his legislative goals had been largely crushed by Republicans in Congress. But he said he takes satisfaction that "we've got several million people who are going to have health insurance."

See OBAMA on Page 4

Merger of DEQ, CRM faces rough waters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Nov. 12 decision merging the Division of Environmental Quality and the Coastal Resources Management Office faces an uphill battle, barely days before the Legislature's 60-day deadline to either modify

or reject the executive order. This, as a House committee reviewing it may recommend rejection over concerns that the merger may result in federal funding loss.

"The merger may affect federal funding for the agencies. That's our main concern," House Committee on

See MERGER on Page 4



Obama

Local



Kurt and Christine's "green dream house."

PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

German couple builds 'green dream house' on Rota

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Kurt and Christine Schroeder sailed the world together for 14 years. In 1995, Kurt, 72, parked his sailboat in Guam and made the decision to work at a dental office there. Everything changed, however, when the German couple left Guam four and a half years later and set their sails north in the direction of Rota. When the couple arrived on the island they instantly fell in love with it and what was supposed to be only a week hiatus turned into years, when they decided to retire and live on the southern island.

It was in 1999 when Kurt decided to purchase two house lots on the island to build his "green dream house" with his wife, Christine. With a bathroom, two kitchens, a guesthouse, entertainment center, garage, and laundry room, their household



Christine explains the variety of fruits and vegetables that she and her husband grow on their garden.

has everything every other person on the island has. The difference is that for the past seven years now, their power and water bill is one digit, zero.

With several solar panels on the roof, pipes and water bins to catch rainwater, and a wind turbine surrounding the house, the couple is totally independent when it comes to running water and electricity throughout their home. Even the position and angle of how the house was built means they don't have to



Kurt and Christine enjoy a cup of tea and cookies on the porch of their "Green Dream House" in Sinapalo, Rota.

use an air conditioner.

"We built the house in the shape of a 'V' facing out into the ocean so we can catch the fresh air and ocean breeze," Kurt said.

This "green dream house" cost them \$60,000 and six months worth of construction. It has several air vents at the top and bottom of the walls facing the ocean that allow cool air to enter and hot air to exit. According to Kurt, the inspiration behind the air vents came from similar houses he saw while vis-

iting Polynesia in the early '90's.

The couple owns a small truck for agricultural purposes and a moped to get around. As for how much energy can be stored, the couple shared that they have two power stations. One station inside the house holds 13 six-volt batteries and the power station located outside holds 12 13-volt batteries.

"Some nights our batteries are so full that we do not have enough space to store the extra energy collected. They are full most of the time," Kurt said.

The couple is not only environmentally friendly when it comes to water and electricity. They also get three fourths of their food from their front yard

garden, according to Christine.

"We buy some of our food from the stores, but most of the time it is from our garden depending on the weather," she said.

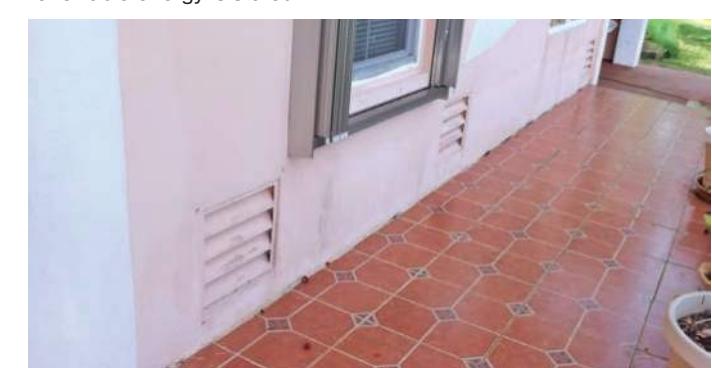
She grows a variety of fruits and vegetables: cabbage, as-



Kurt lifts the cushion on their sofa and reveals the batteries where the renewable energy is stored.



Christine poses with fresh eggs that from the chickens her and Kurt raise on their front yard.



Vents at the lower part of the house act as a natural air conditioner for the building.

Tinian cautions tourists, residents about road safety

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) said yesterday there are options besides reintroducing a vetoed \$1 road tax local bill—such as using some \$2 million in local funding—to buy fuel and equipment for the proper maintenance of Tinian roads and historic sites.

"The mayor always complains that there is no money. Tell us why there's no money to buy fuel. The bill that he wants me to reintroduce was vetoed because of concerns that have not been addressed yet," Conner told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz asked the Tinian Legislative Delegation anew for funding to buy fuel, supplies, and sufficient equipment to properly maintain roads and historic sites on military leased lands. The mayor said the delegation has continued to ignore the issue he has been raising since he took office in 2010.

With no funding for road re-

pair and maintenance, the Tinian mayor's office wants to take precautionary measures.

For one, the mayor wants appropriate warning signs for tourists and residents using Tinian roads and visiting historic sites. These could include standard signs that read, "Watch your step," "No lifeguard on duty", or "Swim at your own risk."

"But we must get some signs up that will demonstrate that we have at least warned locals as well as visitors that a danger exists," the mayor said. "The Attorney General's Office has determined that the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan cannot be represented by them if a lawsuit is filed against us."

The mayor also asked Conner to reintroduce a \$1 user fee for buses, all-terrain vehicles, and rental cars that use Tinian roads.

But Conner said yesterday that the user fee local bill that the mayor's office drafted has flaws that forced the governor to veto it and these concerns have not been fixed yet.

Meanwhile, the mayor said

CNMI celebrates peaceful holidays; only 1 DUI arrest

Police caught only one person driving while intoxicated on Tuesday night as the CNMI capped off the holiday season with New Year festivities.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that of the three checkpoints they had on Tuesday and yesterday on Saipan, one was arrested and brought to the Department of Corrections for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Hurst said they ended the checkpoints yesterday at 12:45am.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, no one was arrested for DUI.

Former CPA-Rota manager wants to run as House rep

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Ports Authority manager for Rota, Thomas A. Manglona, said he is running for a House of Representatives seat representing Rota in the 2014 general elections.

As of yesterday, Manglona has yet to choose the political party he will be a part of.

"I have been thinking about running for office for the longest time. I want to contribute more to the island of Rota. These are very challenging times and I really want to offer my help," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Thomas Manglona, the youngest brother of Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), was terminated from his post as CPA Rota manager in April 2012. He

officially vacated his post on May 9 of that year.

Thomas Manglona's campaign manager is Vianney B. Hocog, the brother of Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota).

"It is time to remove the political divide and to come together to work for the people," Hocog separately said.

Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) is also seeking re-election and so far, her known opponent is Thomas Manglona.

Sen. Paul Manglona, who returned to the Senate after a Supreme Court ruling on vacancy appointment on the heels of former senator Juan Ayuyu's conviction over fruit bat smuggling, is also reportedly running in November 2014.

Also seeking re-election is Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

access roads to the North Field National Historic Landmark have become so narrow because of lack of maintenance that the mayor is concerned about potential lawsuits in case of an accident.

Dela Cruz said Tinian has received no funding in the CNMI budget to maintain the roads that were transferred to the CNMI on military leased lands by the 1994 leaseback agreement.

According to the mayor, unless they receive funding to maintain the access roads to the North Field National Historic Landmark, he will be forced to begin closing the most dangerous sections of the road.

Conner said the mayor may only be putting pressure on the issue because of "politics."

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NMC submits supplemental report to ACCJC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College submitted over the weekend a supplemental report to

the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, which adds to the Show Cause Report that the institution turned in on Oct. 15, 2013. The latest document provides up-

dates to the college's continuing accreditation efforts.

The Supplemental Report is composed of two parts: the first focuses on the NMC's effort to sustain the progress that was

reported in the Show Cause Report, and the second addresses recommendations that were made in the 2012 External Evaluation Team Report. The full content of the latest submission is unavailable pending release by the commission.

Flores consulting lawyer on SLL 17-08

Saipan Mayor Donald P. Flores has not gone off-island on official or unofficial business ever since the Attorney General's Office warned him that non-compliance with Saipan Local Law 17-08 would warrant the filing of criminal charges against him.

SLL 17-08 designates the Saipan Municipal Council chairman as acting mayor when the mayor—in this case, Flores—is off-island.

In the past and prior to the warning from Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, Flores had designated his adviser, Henry Hofsneider, as acting mayor.

Flores said in a recent inter-

view that he hasn't made any off-island trips since the Oct. 15 warning from the OAG, adding there were also no invitations or reasons to do so.

That is not to say that the Saipan Mayor's Office is standing pat with regards to SLL 17-08. Flores said they are currently consulting their lawyer and are pushing to have the statute repealed.

"We will be officially responding to that with my lawyer. We are also doing another approach and we're talking to the Legislature to take a look at the law if it's constitutional or not. If it's unconstitutional then it should be repealed," he said.

The Saipan mayor said SLL 17-08 is unfair and impractical.

"For even one day, that law states that the mayor should do that. Still we're trying to determine if the enactment of SLL 17-08 is constitutional. The attorney general said that I could be arrested if I leave and would be filed criminal charges."

According to the OAG, Flores designated his adviser, Hofsneider, as acting mayor on Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, 2012; Feb. 4 to 12, 2013; July 19 to 22; and Sept. 29 to Oct. 4, 2013.

Flores may face as much as a year of jail time and fined \$1,000 or both if proven guilty of violating the statute.

Last September, Saipan and

Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho wrote to the OAG complaining about Flores' continued violation of SLL-17-08.

In the letter, Camacho said that Flores designates an officer-in-charge "whenever the mayor was physically outside the CNMI on official travel or on personal business."

Camacho asked San Nicolas to write Flores a letter advising him to comply with SLL 17-08. In absence of that, Camacho said, a certified question to the CNMI Supreme Court or a declaratory relief is an option available to the OAG in effecting the application of SLL 17-08. (*Mark Rabago*)

OBAMA

From Page 1

On the revelations by former contractor Edward Snowden about National Security Agency collection of data about Americans' communications, the president said he was preparing "a pretty definitive statement about this in January."

The revelations, Obama said, had shaken the "confidence and trust" of some Americans, causing them to worry that their privacy was no longer secure. He insisted that the NSA was not doing anything contrary to U.S. law but that he felt NSA programs might need to be changed to restore the trust citizens have in their government's security operations.

One reform could be to stop the practice of government stor-

ing phone records for five years and shift that storage to phone companies.

"I have confidence that the NSA is not engaged in domestic surveillance or snooping around," Obama said, but added, "we may have to refine this further to give people more confidence."

He did not address a federal judge's ruling earlier in the week that some of the NSA's activities were likely unconstitutional. Judge Richard Leon called the NSA's operation "Orwellian" in scope and said there was little evidence that its vast trove of data from American users had prevented a terrorist attack.

Despite his fall in the polls, Obama appeared confident and relaxed as he looked forward to a Friday departure with his family for his traditional Christ-

mas season vacation in Hawaii, where he was born.

Obama championed the improving economy and said next year "can be a breakthrough year for America" after a long season of recession and slow recovery.

The president fielded questions a few hours after the government announced the economy grew at a solid 4.1 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest pace since late 2011 and significantly higher than previously believed.

The president praised Congress for a recent, relatively modest budget compromise, saying, "It's probably too early to declare an outbreak of bipartisanship. But it's also fair to say we're not condemned to endless gridlock."

He renewed his long-standing

refusal to negotiate concessions with Republicans in exchange for legislation that will be needed in coming months to raise the nation's debt limit. "It is not something that is a negotiating tool. It's not leverage. It's a responsibility of Congress," he said.

Asked if this year had been the worst of his presidency, Obama laughed and said, "That's not how I think about it."

High-visibility parts of his agenda have yet to make it through Congress, including a call for gun safety legislation in the wake of a major school shooting a year ago and a sweeping overhaul of immigration laws.

In his review of the year, Obama also noted that U.S. combat troops finally will be withdrawn from Afghanistan during the coming year.

MERGER

From Page 1

Judiciary and Government Operations chair Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

The JGO panel is reviewing the governor's Executive Order 2013-24. It will then recommend to the full House to either reject or accept the EO.

The reorganization plan becomes effective 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless a majority of the members of the House and Senate specifically modify or disapprove it.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) separately said yesterday they want to "hear from both sides" their concerns about the governor's executive order before deciding as a member of the JGO Committee whether to approve or disapprove it.

"Like what the chairman said, it might affect federal funding and we don't want that. I didn't hear any con-

cerns that led to putting these two agencies together, but we still have to hear from the two agencies," Deleon Guerrero, a JGO panel member, said.

Sablan, vice chair of the JGO Committee, said that merging two agencies almost always results in savings but there are also other factors that need to be considered, including whether such action would result in loss of funds.

DEQ and CRM receive separate funds from federal agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The JGO committee chairman called for a Friday morning committee meeting with DEQ director Frank Rabauliman and CRM acting administrator Ana Agulto, so that these agency officials could respond to questions about the proposed merger "and in particular, any impact the merger may have on federal grants, local funding, and the integration of the functions of the two offices."

Leon Guerrero also asked the DEQ and CRM officials to pro-

vide listings of personnel organizational chart and all federal programs within their respective agencies.

The governor's executive order establishes the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. It will be headed by an administrator and will have two divisions: DEQ and CRM.

In signing the EO on Nov. 12, the governor announced that DEQ's Rabauliman becomes the new bureau's administrator. Rabauliman will appoint the directors of DEQ and CRM.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), for his part, said combining agencies provides efficiency and simplifies processes and if this is the case with DEQ and CRM, then he will support the merger.

The governor, in his four-page executive order, said integrating CRM Office and DEQ will help to achieve "a more ideal CNMI representation to the public and to U.S. federal agencies," such as NOAA and EPA.

This, he said, is by "fully integrating and collaborating in the architecture of their agencies' grants, strategic goals,

and objectives."

Inos said the integration will also establish an efficient and economical agency that will benefit the public by having a more efficient permitting process, eliminating overlapping and redundant responsibilities, and attaining positive collaboration in common areas of environmental management by sharing resources while engaged in similar purposes, mission, and duties.

The governor had pointed out that no DEQ and CRM employee will be displaced as a result of the reorganization, that employees will retain their civil service status, and that funding remains the same—at least for fiscal year 2014.

Besides merging DEQ and CRM, the governor also merged the Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Agency, as well as the Emergency Management Office and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security as part of its government streamlining efforts. The Legislature did not modify nor reject these two others mergers.

"The Supplemental Report emphasizes the college's efforts to sustain its accreditation momentum, and even goes further to describe other activities we have undertaken to address accreditation recommendations," said Amanda Allen, NMC Distance Learning director and accreditation liaison officer.

According to Allen, the latest submission discusses the college's progress in addressing recommendations that involved the library and other learning support services; administrative capacity; and the Board of Regents. It also details the actions that the college has taken to improve effectiveness in areas like access to Rota and Tinian, pursuing funds for the Facilities Master Plan, improvements to NMC's IT infrastructure, NMC's governance structure and the Institutional Excellence Guide, and Board of Regents policies.

"We are proud that the college community continues to make important strides in numerous areas. However, our work has not ended with the submission with the Supplemental Report.

CRIME

From Page 1

Of the 799 theft cases, Susupe was leading with 107, followed by Chalan Kanoa with 60, and Garapan with 56.

The second most crime committed was disturbance with 693 disturbing the peace cases. Susupe has the most number with 78, followed by Chalan Kanoa with 53, and Koblerville with 50.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero formed the Community Oriented Policing Section for Chalan Kanoa and Susupe a few months back after citing the two villages as the crime capital of the island.

BABY

From Page 1

delivered at 8:13am on Jan. 1 and weighed 8 lbs and measured 35cm.

"She's going to be a happy and healthy baby!" said the doctor as she checked the mother and baby's condition.

According to Nenita Annie Rose, they never expected their baby to be the New Year baby in the Commonwealth. In fact, she told *Saipan Tribune*, she was supposed to give birth on Christmas Eve but that did not happen.

It was around 4pm on Dec. 31 when realized that she may deliver soon. "I felt the pain and I was both nervous and excited for my baby. I am now relieved because I finally saw her safe and healthy," said the new mother.

Baby Ilia'mae is Nenita Annie Rose's first baby with her boyfriend of three years, Jerry Muña. Both parents are 18 and are seniors at Saipan Southern High and Kagman High School. Jerry has nothing but grand

dreams for his firstborn. For him, Baby Ilia'mae is a big inspiration and a priceless gift for his graduation. He plans to serve the military, be a good provider to his family, and a responsible father to his children.

"I will support whatever makes her happy," vowed the new father.

When asked about her plans, Nenita Annie Rose is determined to finish her high school next year. Like her boyfriend, she has nothing but good dreams for her baby. "I will always be here to support her," she said.

For first-time grandmother Caridad Saures-Kaipat, the newborn will bring much joy and happiness to both families. "She is special, and will always be special to all of us!" she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Baby Ilia'mae was welcomed yesterday by hospital staff, led by nursing supervisor Nieves Wabol-Nekaifes, who were all excited to meet the CNMI's New Year baby for 2014. Relatives of the newborn also didn't let the day pass without welcoming the newest addition to their families.

Aging Center staff is allegedly beaten by a co-worker

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 58-year-old staff at the Office of Aging was allegedly traumatized over injuries she suffered at the hands of her then co-worker, who allegedly grabbed her hair and dragged her into their office's restroom where she continued beating her.

Leonora A. Quitugua, a secretary of the Aging Center director, has been undergoing therapy since then because of the trauma she suffered since the beating that happened on Nov. 8.

Quitugua reportedly sustained swelling, bruises and lacerations on the head. She has yet to report for work since the incident.

The suspect, Ruslyn Carmen Saito, then community development technician at the Office on Aging, was arrested shortly after the incident for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. She posted bail.

Saito, who is in her 30's, was terminated from her job as a result of the incident, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Prior to the beating, Quitugua and Saito had a spat over radio

transmissions on portable radios, police said.

At a hearing on Dec. 23, 2013, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja dismissed the case without prejudice as police at that time had yet to provide a police report to the Office of the Attorney General.

Dismissal without prejudice means the prosecution can refile the case in the future.

Eileen Babauta, 40, a school program coordinator, told *Saipan Tribune* that they had to bring their mother, Quitugua, to the clinic on Nov. 14 because she was experiencing headaches since the alleged beating.

Babauta said her mother had a CT scan and they were referred to the Community Guidance Center for their mother's counseling and that they go there bi-weekly and as needed.

"I just want justice to be served. My mother did not deserve that beating. No one on this Earth deserved a beating. To top it all, the perpetrator did not show signs of remorse, or empathy, flaunting herself as if she is free," Babauta said.

She pointed out that this should not have happened as

government employees need to feel safe in their work environment.

"I hear that there are some issues with [Department of Public Safety], that the perpetrator is related to the cop. They were lenient and no priorities were made. Nov. 8 to Dec. 23 and no police report?" Babauta asked.

According to a police report obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, a police officer said he was conducting a routine patrol in Chalan Kanoa on Nov. 8 at 8:55am when he was dispatched to the Aging Center or Man'amko Center in China Town where an assault and battery case was reported.

At the Aging Center, the officer interviewed Quitugua in-

side the director's office.

Based on the interview, the officer said that Quitugua was cleaning the director's office at 8:45am when a staff came in and told her that one of the drivers was calling in from the radio and that the radio was not in the main office.

Quitugua went out, found the radio, and talked to the driver. As she was talking with the driver on the radio, Saito, who was out in the field, interfered on the radio and made some offensive remarks against Quitugua.

Saito told Quitugua to give the radio to someone who knows how to respond to calls.

When Saito later came to the Aging Center, she went straight to Quitugua and al-

legedly pulled the victim's hair and dragged her into the ladies' restroom where she punched and kicked her. Saito then went out of the restroom but returned soon after and continued beating Quitugua.

Saito then left and locked the door. Quitugua waited for a while then came out by shaking the door knob, and called the director, then 911 for police assistance.

A female employee who witnessed the beating told police that she did not help Quitugua because Saito is big and she was afraid she would get hurt instead.

Another female employee told police that she managed to grab Saito from the restroom and then she called her

co-worker on the cell phone. Aging Center director Walter A. Manglona, in his report to the Office of the Attorney General, disclosed that Saito apologized to him and that she admitted hitting Quitugua because she just "lost it."

Manglona said Saito stated that she was very upset because Quitugua was rude to her and has been acting like a boss at the center.

Manglona then called Attorney General Joey San Nicolas to ask his advice on how to handle the matter. He said San Nicolas came with assistant attorney general Tom Schweiger, who was assigned to handle the case.

Saito was subsequently terminated from her job.

Lujan wants former senator Ayuyu's sentencing reset

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan has asked the federal court to move the sentencing of his client, former senator Juan M. Ayuyu, from this coming Friday to Feb. 14, 2014.

In a motion filed on Monday, Lujan said that Ayuyu received the final sentencing recommendations filed by the U.S. Probation Office only on Friday, Dec. 27. Lujan said he himself is currently waiting for the verdict in a criminal case in Guam.

"This motion is made in the interests of justice to enable the defendant to have effective assistance of counsel, and to ensure that the defendant's constitutional rights are preserved," Lujan said.

He said attorney Bruce Berline, counsel of Ayuyu in another

Inos in no hurry to hire legal counsel

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is not in a hurry to hire a legal counsel to replace his long-time counsel, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, who is now a Superior Court associate judge.

The governor said Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas and the Office of the Attorney General will continue to provide legal support to his office, along with attorneys Jim Stump and Wesley Bogdan. The latter's main focus are military-related issues, the governor said.

"The AG is going to continue to provide legal support

to my office... I've got budget issues within the office, too. I just hired an administrative office manager," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kim-Tenorio had been Inos' legal counsel starting when he was still lieutenant governor. When Inos became governor on Feb. 20, 2013, Kim-Tenorio continued to be his legal counsel. Inos nominated Kim-Tenorio to serve on the bench, an appointment that the Senate confirmed. Kim-Tenorio started reporting for work at the court on Dec. 23. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

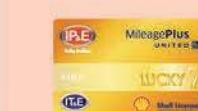
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Man sues several businesses for alleged ADA violations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.cegion
REPORTER

A man with disabilities has filed a lawsuit in federal court against two gas stations and the owners of 25 stores, seven poker arcades, and one bar, all located on Saipan, for allegedly having facilities that are not accessible to disabled persons.

William L. Tracy, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, is suing the defendants for dis-

ability discrimination in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Tracy is also suing Shafa Corp., owner of Bali Fashion, for negligence over injuries he allegedly suffered after tripping and falling at the store due to barriers that violate the ADA.

Tracy asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that the establishments owned and operated by the defendants are in violation of the

ADA and its regulations.

He asked the court to direct the defendants to alter their facilities to make them accessible to and useable by those with disabilities.

He demanded unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

The two gas stations named in the lawsuit are AA Enterprises Inc. that owns the Mobil Sadog Tasi Service Station, and D&W Corp. that owns Shell

Gualo Rai Service Station. The lone bar owner being sued is Donald Bufton, who operates Round II.

The stores named as defendants are CYC Corp. that owns CYC Kagman Market; Dong Rim Corp. that owns San Jose Downtown Market; Eagle Corp. that owns Garapan Market and Garapan Laundry; Han Nam Corp. that owns Han Nam Market; Huang Shun Corp. that owns U-Save Supermarket II;

Jia Jia Corp. that owns New Grand Market; Jin Yi Corp. that owns New Chang Ming Market; KS Chang Corp. that owns I-Mart; Ling Lin Palacios who owns Ling Lin Store II; Martha's Retail Shop Inc. that owns Martha's Retail Store; Ming Yang Corp. that owns Ming Yang Market; Naina Enterprises Inc. that owns Roshi's; New Ming Yang Corp. that owns New Ming Yang Market; Peace Asia Pacific Corp. that owns Brother's Market; P&S Corp. that owns P&A Laundry; Saipan Entertainment Inc. that owns New Kagman Market; Soi-In Corp. that owns Cool Market; Sunleader Co. Ltd. that owns Sunleader Supermarket; Wan-Jia Corp. that owns New Top Store; Wan-Jia Corp. that owns Wan Fu Market; Young Hui Corp. that owns Yong Hui Market; Zeng's American Corp. that owns Happy Market; Zheng's Pacific Corp. that owns JJ Market; and ZV Corp. that owns Shun Fu Market.

According to Quichocho, Tracy suffers from severe physical and mental impairments and has a very difficult time standing or walking without the use of a cane for mobility and balance.

Quichocho said Tracy is unable or has serious difficulties, due to his disability, to use commercial facilities that are not designed or constructed in compliance with accessibility standards to accommodate disabled persons who require a cane for mobility and balance.

Quichocho said that prior to filing the lawsuit, Tracy visited these establishments and was denied full, safe, and equal access to the properties due to the barriers to access and their lack of compliance with the ADA.

Among the violations cited are the lack of a designated parking slot for disabled persons, lack of grab bars at the side or rear of the toilet, and lack of adequate signage.

On Sept. 12, 2012, Quichocho said, Tracy went to Bali Fashion and, as he was exiting the establishment, he tripped over a cement barrier on the floor in front of the door, and fell to the ground and broke his bones.

"Tracy sought medical assistance for his injuries and he continues to suffer physical and mental pain from his injuries," the lawyer added.



NEW CNMI LABOR SECRETARY

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, poses with newly sworn-in CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, front row in green shirt, along with her family and relatives during a brief ceremony in the governor's conference room on Capitol Hill. Inos administered the oath of office to DeLeon Guerrero, a former executive director of the Workforce Investment Agency and whose governor's appointment as Labor secretary was confirmed by the Senate on Dec. 20.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-006

CHALAN KIYA-KANAT TABLA WATERLINE CONNECTION (W12-022)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope-of-work consists of installation of new six (6) inch ductile iron distribution main connecting the Kanat Tabla booster pump through the existing Chalan Kiya water distribution main line. It also includes replacement and installation of various new valves, and water service lateral connections at designated areas within the Chalan Kiya Village.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Tender Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable); at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on December 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-006, Chalan Kiya-Kanat Tabla Waterline Connection, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christi Lazaro, Engineer, CUC Water-Wastewater Division via email christi.lazaro@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Support Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-008

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of approximately 18,000,000 US gallons annually of **Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (Grade No. 2-D S15)** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" ASTM D975-11 or the latest revision.

The RFP package may be obtained upon completion of registration and receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **January 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-008, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **January 21, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email charles.warren@cucgov.org and Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

CPUC hearing examiner OK's rate hike, CUC refunds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new power rate hike and at the same time a refund for customers may likely take place if the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will follow the recommendations of both its consultant and hearing examiner, which separately issued proposals pertaining to the petitions filed by the utilities corporation.

CPUC's consultant is Georgetown Consulting Services while its hearing examiner is Harry M. Boertzel. Georgetown earlier agreed to a joint stipulation

with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that supported the proposed increases in base rates and other items. The hearing examiner, for his part, not only found the rate hike proposal necessary and just but recommended as well the creation of a 36-month refund mechanism for residential customers who were charged extra for a supposed external CUC loan that never materialized.

"The preponderance of evidence supports a finding that the rate and tariff adjustments proposed are necessary, just, and reasonable. These adjustments should be made effective the

day after the commission's decision," stated Boertzel in his proposal to the CPUC on Dec. 24.

Boertzel specifically supported the recommendation to increase the electric base rate in order for CUC to generate \$2.8 million to finance its capital improvement needs and cover its operating and debt expenses. This increase would be achieved by a base rate reduction of \$1.3 million and the establishment of a separate \$0.021 per kWh infrastructure surcharge on all customers classes, which over the next 12 months would fund the \$4.1 million necessary to

meet obligations to Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., whose independent power purchase contract was bought out in 2011.

PMIC is the independent power producer that previously operated Power Plant 4. In June 2012, CUC entered into an agreement with the company to terminate an existing power purchase agreement that cost CUC \$3.972 million annually. This was originally scheduled to end Aug. 31, 2016. This contract buyout was initially assessed to save CUC ratepayers over \$5 million. From July 2012 to December 2014, the payments

under the buyout agreement are \$341,000 every month.

Boertzel also supports providing residential CUC power ratepayers with a \$3.4 million refund. Under Public Law 16-7, these customers must be given a refund of what had been collected from them for the unrealized loan with Independence Bank. Boertzel recommended that the refund must be accomplished through the creation of a 36-month \$0.023 per kWh residential credit that would be funded by a reciprocal increase in commercial base rates.

"CUC should be ordered to

certify to the commission on or before Feb. 1, 2018, that the residential credit and reciprocal charge on commercial customers were terminated at the expiration of the 36-month refund period," according to Boertzel.

CPUC, on its June 2011 decision, awarded CUC \$1.02 million in annual rate revenue in anticipation of debt service expenses under a proposed loan for stipulated order capital requirements. The loan, however, was never closed and about \$2.5 million had already been collected from customers. CUC, despite a legislative order to issue a refund, failed to do so.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that CUC has accounted for expenditures of about \$1.5 million since the June 2011 decision for SO-related capital requirements while \$1 million was used for business expenses.

UOG Cancer Research Center reps present study at APHA exposition

University of Guam Cancer Research Center representatives UOG adjunct research faculty Dr. Annette David and UOG student Lawrence Alcairo recently conducted a roundtable discussion of their research abstract and presentation entitled, "CREATE (Community Outreach for Action Team) – Guam: Empowering Youth to Drive Tobacco Control Policy" at the 141st Annual American Public Health Association Meeting and Exposition in Boston, Massachusetts in November. Their abstract was selected among thousands of submitted abstracts for oral presentation at the APHA meeting.

The roundtable discussion highlighted efforts by the UOG Cancer Research Center community outreach pilot program to identify and better understand reasons for tobacco use disparities among Chamorro and other Micronesian youth. The UOG CRC partnered with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Institute for Global Tobacco Control to map point of sale tobacco advertising in a random sample of tobacco retailers in Guam, using community-based participatory approaches.

Tobacco use in Guam is the highest in the nation, where approximately one in four adults report using tobacco (Guam Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey 2012 data). In Guam, Chamorros have the highest rates in smoking and chewing tobacco.

According to David, "There was great interest in the methodology used by the UOG U54 team, and several requests for copies of the presentation and products were received. The overall consensus was that the outcomes from the Guam research were significant, and highlighted the key role of community driven data gathering in stimulating policy change for better health."

Alcairo shared that "The APHA meeting highlighted the accomplishments of public health professionals and advocates across the globe and he was proud to represent Guam and its youth, as well as the University of Guam at this important meeting."

Alcairo is currently in his junior year at the University of Guam and the son of proud parents, Guam Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant (ret.) Joseph and Lilia Alcairo of Yigo. (*UOG*)

using hand held computers equipped with Geographic Information System technology and use of Photovoice to digitally document tobacco point of sale advertising. The researchers wanted to test whether higher exposure to tobacco advertising is one of the reasons for higher tobacco use rates among Chamorro and other Micronesian youth on Guam.

"We are grateful for UOG's leadership in cancer research and for the opportunity to represent our valuable research work at such a prestigious gathering of health professionals," added David.

The roundtable session also featured youth-led community projects, initiatives, and research aimed at addressing health disparities in underserved youth communities. Panelists discussed components of effective youth development programs, the processes used to engage youth leaders in research and advocacy efforts, and project outcomes. David and Alcairo completed a total of three presentations to an audience consisting of various public health professional who work with youth on public health issues who came from Oklahoma, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, New York, India, and Nigeria.

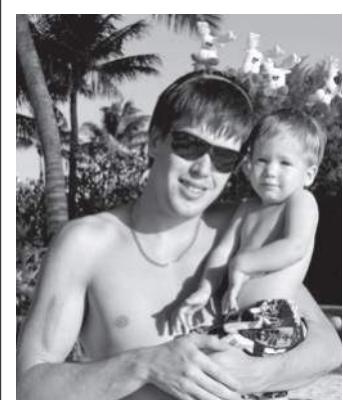
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From left, Lawrence Alcairo (UOG youth researcher); Adrienne Gill (University of North Carolina); and Dr. Annette David (UOG Research Faculty) at the APHA Poster session in Boston, Massachusetts.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

This happy birthday shoutout goes out to Denis Gapotchenko, who turns 26 today! Our best wishes for you on your birthday! Live a healthy and happy life! Let all your dreams come true! And have a great celebration, of course. You are the best dad in the world! We love you very much. Greetings come from your family, parents, friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOM TEDDY BEAR ENTERTAINING PLAZA

GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW BRANCH

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All Guam Guard soldiers arrive on US soil

The final wave of soldiers assigned to the 1-294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard have arrived in Camp Shelby, MS, to begin the demobilization process.

The last wave of Task Force Guam soldiers arrived safely in Camp Shelby, MS, yesterday.

The first two waves of soldiers

arrived within the last 10 days.

"This is a very good start to this new year!" said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, Adjutant General of the Guam

Guam Airmen recognized as best in the Air National Guard

Two members of the 254th Security Forces Squadron received accolades as the best of the best in the entire Air National Guard Security Forces.

Master Sergeant Frankie C. Quinata was selected as the Outstanding ANG Security Forces Senior Non-Commissioned Officer awardee while Technical Sergeant Oscar Y. Espinosa was selected as the Outstanding ANG Security Forces Non-Commissioned Officer awardee.

Quinata and Espinosa competed against Air National Guard Airmen representing all 54 states and territories in the Security Forces specialty.

"This is another great accomplishment for our island. These airmen continue to put the Guam Air National Guard on the map. I am honored that we have two airmen being honored at the national level. I extend my congratulations to the Airmen and their families," said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General, Guam National Guard.

Quinata, who is from the village of Merizo, joined the U.S. Army in 1986 and served three



Quinata



Espinosa

years. He enlisted in the Guam Air National Guard in 2004 as a Security Forces Apprentice and has excelled in various capacities within the Guam Air National Guard, the 36th Security Forces Squadron and the 736th SFS/Commando Warrior.

Quinata recently returned from a deployment to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, with the AFCENT 1 ECEG / 557 ERHS as the Superintendent of Security Forces and Force Protection Advisor.

In his civilian capacity, Quinata is a conservation officer with the Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife.

Espinosa, from the village of Agat, enlisted in the Guam Air National Guard in 2004 as a Security Forces Apprentice and currently serves as the Security Manager and Drug Testing Program Administrative Manager. He has also provided outstanding support to the 36th SFS, Andersen AFB, Guam; the 18th SFS, Kadena AB, Japan; and the 506 ESFS, while deployed to Kirkuk Regional AB, Iraq.

Espinosa is currently deployed to Al Udeid AB, Qatar, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Espinosa is a police officer with the Guam Police Department. (*Guam National Guard*)

National Guard. "We are looking forward to welcoming our heroes home."

The battalion's close to 600

soldiers deployed to Afghanistan early this year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

Thirty-one airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squad-

ron and four soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard's 1990th Contingency Contracting Team are still deployed during this holiday season in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (*PR*)

NEWS BRIEFS

Station Apra Harbor assists 6 aboard sinking vessel

APRA HARBOR, GUAM—A 45-foot Response Boat Medium from U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor assisted six individuals aboard a vessel taking on water on Dec. 31, 2013.

That afternoon, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report that a Station Apra Harbor small boat came across a 15-foot recreational vessel aground and taking on water in the vicinity of Sumay Cove. Four adults and two children were aboard the vessel. The Coast Guard RBM safely removed two children and two adults from the

vessel. The other adults were able to safely paddle the vessel to shore. All six were united before the RBM returned to base. (*USCG*)

GFR, HSC-25, USCG respond to distressed swimmers

PAGO BAY, GUAM—Guam Fire and Rescue, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, and Coast Guard Sector Guam coordinated response for two swimmers in distress on Dec. 31, 2013.

That afternoon, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report from GFR that GFR units were responding to the report of two swimmers in distress

outside of Pagat Cave. GFR Rescue I, Rescue II, and Rescue III were being dispatched when Sector Guam received the call. HSC-25 launched minutes after being briefed by Sector Guam. A GFR ground crew was able to hike into the distress location and assessed the scene from shore, while a HSC-25 helicopter made an assessment from the waterside. The HSC-25 helicopter successfully hoisted two individuals from the reef and transported them to the hospital. The GFR ground crew encountered six other individuals at the scene and escorted them back to the Pagat Cave trail head. (*UCCG*)



**Northern Marianas
Humanities Council**

Navigating the Human Experience

Article XII: Land Ownership in the Northern Mariana Islands

Moderated by Robert T. Torres

Produced by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council

This program, moderated by attorney Robert T. Torres, consists of three one-hour panel discussions focusing on Article XII of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Constitution. It aims to provide an informed and objective presentation of facts and a variety of viewpoints relating to land alienation in the CNMI. Although there is no way to cover all of the complexities of Article XII in a three-hour program, this series provides basic information that hopefully will encourage viewers to discuss and consider this important topic with their families, friends and colleagues. It is intended for anyone wishing to learn more about the history, effects and possible future of Article XII.

Part 1: The Foundation

Panelists: Marianas Political Status Commission members Vicente N. Santos and Pedro A. Tenorio

Part 1 looks at the history of the provision that limits land ownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Marianas Descent. Where did the idea originate? What was the purpose of including it? Why did Section 805 of the Covenant require that this provision be retained for a minimum of 25 years before it might be reconsidered?

Part 1 will air on KSPN Channel 2 at 6:30 pm on January 6, 7, and 8, 2014.

Part 2: Today's Perspectives

Panelists: Lorenzo DLG Cabrera, Representative George N. Camacho, and Alex A. Sablan

Part 2 looks at the impacts of Article XII today. What is the definition of "Northern Marianas Descent" under Article XII of the CNMI Constitution? What have been the positive and negative effects of Article XII with respect to cultural preservation, the economy, and families and individuals?

Part 2 will air on KSPN Channel 2 at 6:30 pm on January 13, 14, and 15, 2014.

Part 3: The Future

Panelists: Vincent J. Seman, Carolyn P. Hosono, and House Vice-Speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz

Part 3 looks at the future Article XII. Does Article XII need to be changed? What are some options for modifying Article XII? Who should have the right to vote on Article XII?

Part 3 will air on KSPN Channel 2 at 6:30 pm on January 20, 21, and 22, January 2014.



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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.



The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,109,520.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$753,815.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,400.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$46,306.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2014.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 30, 2013.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Friday, March 21, 2014, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 21, 2014, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 12, 2014, 5:00 p.m. & February 26, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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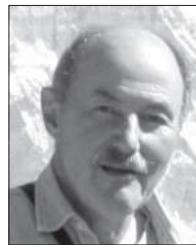
AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Extremists love to hijack revolutions

By BEN BARBER

McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Ben Barber has covered the Middle East for 30 years for the Baltimore Sun, London Observer, Toronto Globe and Mail and other publications.

Around the world, hijacking is in. Ukraine is the latest example. Extremists let moderates do the heavy lifting (protests, strikes, marches, sit-ins, blogs, public speeches) to win the support of the center. Then, when the old leaders have been removed from power, and the new leaders don't even know where to find a bathroom in the parliament, the extremists take over. Here's some recent examples:

Syria—Al-Qaida and other extremist killer groups have hijacked what was initially a secular, moderate movement for freedom from the repressive Assad clan.

Tunisia—A secular uprising against injustice after the self-immolation of a poor fruit vendor was hijacked by Islamist groups.

Egypt—The peaceful, pro-democracy uprising by secular Egyptians was hijacked by the Muslim Brotherhood, which immediately grasped for all seats of power, rewrote the constitution and pushed its orthodox vision of Islam on a largely religiously tolerant nation.

Israel—the conservative Likud party was hijacked by the settlers' movement which is hawkish, intolerant, absolutist and opposed to giving Palestinians their own homeland on the West Bank.

Gaza—After Israel relinquished control to the Palestinian Authority, the well-armed and zealous Hamas movement hijacked military control of the enclave and continues for seven years to repress all opposition, demand the destruction of Israel.

United States—The tea party hijacked the Republican Party for about two years, forcing moderate Republicans to vote to shut down the government and move to renege on the nation's debt.

Afghanistan—The Taliban—armed and inspired by Pakistan—hijacked the mujahideen movement that ousted the Soviet army in the early 1990s. Taliban extremists now seethe along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, murder all who refuse to obey them and await the U.S. departure in 2014 to try and hijack the nation once more.

Iran—The massive general uprising in Tehran in 1979 led to the ouster of the Shah and installation of a government with academics, moderates and mullahs. Guess who threw all the moderates out, killed many of them and hijacked the nation of 70 million people? Iranian clerics I met in Europe at the time assured me that the clergy had no wish to take power and would install democracy. It was sweet talk to someone they saw as a foolish young journalist.

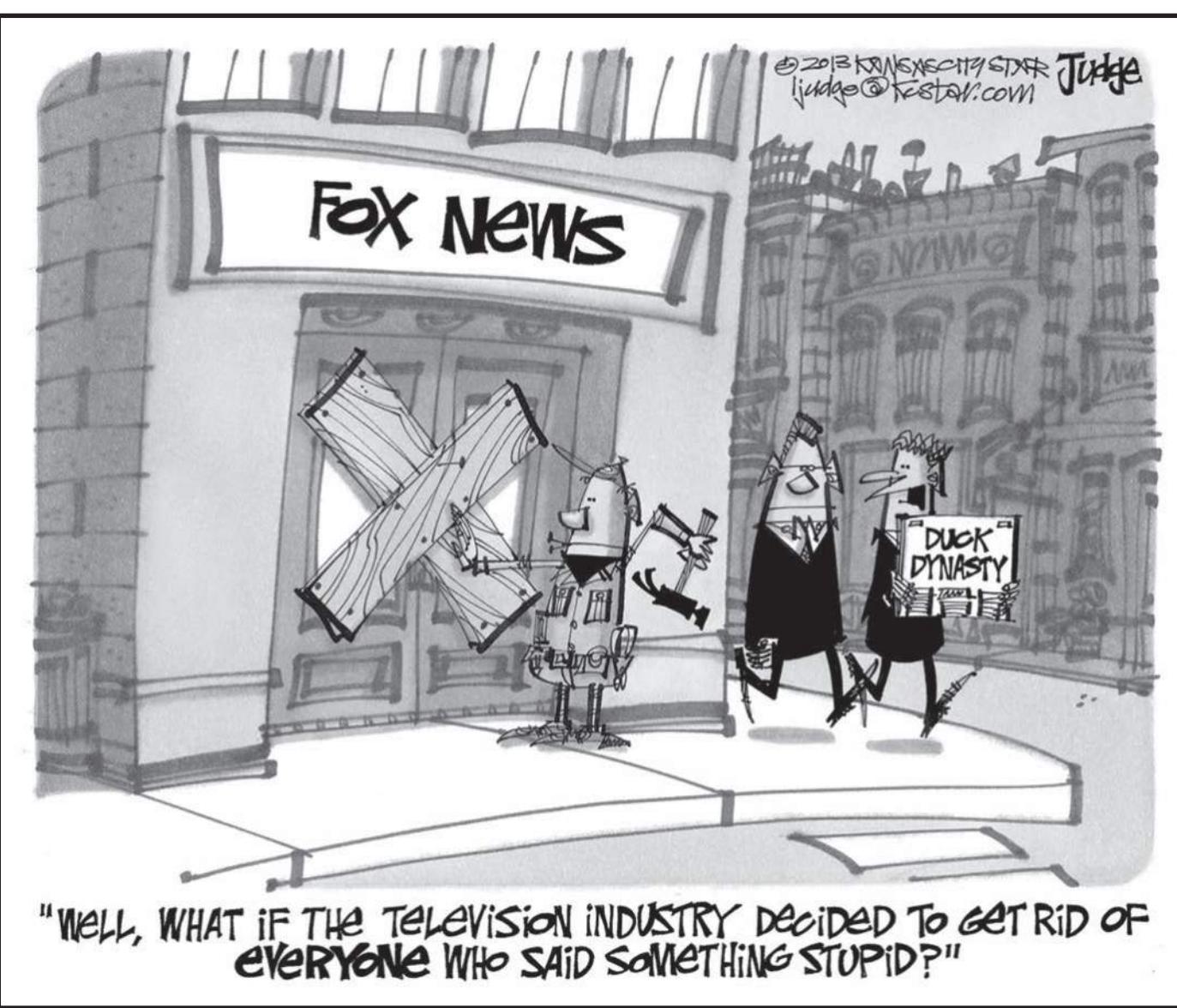
In the Ukraine we see the latest hijacking attempt taking place. It is, in fact, a double hijacking. The Russian-speaking minority in the East won power through elections and are attempting to shift the ship of state toward the past and join a Russian-dominated customs union.

The hundreds of thousands of people in Kiev we see each night on TV news are protesting this hijacking of their country. These protesters are mainly Ukrainian-speakers from the center and West of the huge agricultural and industrial nation that was the crown jewel in the Soviet system of satellites.

The second hijacking is within the protest movement which aims to link Ukraine to Europe.

What began as a liberal, secular, modern, pro-Europe movement in 2004—during the Orange Revolution against Russian-backed

See EXTREMISTS on Next Page



It isn't a sin to be rich

By RICHARD RIORDAN and ELI BROAD

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Is it a sin to be rich?

Not if your resources are used to help others and create jobs.

If you listen to most of the discussions of income inequality, it certainly seems like affluence itself is a crime. We hear increasing calls for higher taxes on the wealthy and other policies designed to redistribute income. President Obama summed up that position when he said, "Our country cannot succeed when a shrinking few do very well and a growing many barely make it."

The assumption behind these proposals is that a minority of Americans has become rich by making a majority of our people poorer. In other words, it is seen as cause and effect. That's simply not the case.

We agree that the facts on income inequality are stark and disturbing. Since 1973, the gap between incomes earned by the rich and middle-class Americans has grown every year, increasing now at a higher rate. Meanwhile, the number of middle-class jobs has been reduced by global competition and automation.

But many of the factors driving this process aren't getting enough attention.

One is education. As Obama's nominee to chair the Federal Reserve, Janet Yellen, recently pointed out, "from 1973 to 2005, real hourly wages of those in the (top 10 percent)—where most people have college or advanced degrees—rose by 30 percent or more. ... In contrast, at the 50th percentile and below—where many people have at most a high school diploma—real, inflation-adjusted wages rose by only 5 percent to 10 percent." And those without college degrees are much more likely to be unemployed.

In the new globalized economy, in which manufacturing is largely done offshore, many of the middle-class American jobs that don't require higher education have left the country. The good jobs that remain will increasingly require far more technological know-how. We need to be educating American workers to fill them.

We also need wealthy Americans to create those jobs. Start-ups in ventures that produce middle-class jobs require investments by those willing and able to take risks. Over the last five years, according to the Economist magazine, those start-ups have accounted for almost all of the net increase in new American jobs paying at least middle-class salaries.

And before demonizing the rich, it's important to consider the foundations and charities they have built and supported. Many of those with money take pride in using it to help others and to create jobs. That should be encouraged rather than discouraged with

punitive taxes. Last year, despite the halting economic recovery, individual charitable contributions increased 3.9 percent to \$228.93 billion, and most of that comes from the top 10 percent, according to an annual report on giving by Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Equally important, because today's philanthropists are applying the entrepreneurial lessons of their own careers to their giving, unprecedented results are being achieved in cutting-edge medical research, education reform and the fights against HIV and tropical and childhood diseases.

Americans are rightfully concerned about income inequality, but some of the "solutions" proposed wouldn't help much or would be counterproductive. Measures such as raising the minimum wage would help only a small number of workers. And while raising taxes on the wealthy might sound fair, it is likely to be counterproductive. When a succession of post-World War II Labor Party governments imposed high marginal tax rates and other income redistribution policies on Britain, it set off a well-documented brain and talent drain that benefited every other country in the English-speaking world.

When taxes rise to onerous levels, the wealthy move on, taking their investments, tax payments and philanthropic contributions with them. As Gregory Mankiw, chairman of Harvard's economic department, has pointed out: "Rich people can pretty much live anywhere. If you're a retired person trying to decide between Palm Beach and Santa Barbara, the tax difference between Florida and California is huge."

We are the only country in the developed world without large national labor or socialist parties, and it's unlikely that many Americans ever are going to be converted to the notion that it's sinful to be wealthy. What we all need to continue to believe, and to act on, is the conviction that it's wrong and socially destructive for the rich to forget those who still can use a hand up.

Rather than investing in hedge funds and other forms of financial speculation divorced from the real economy, more of the wealthy need to accept the responsibility of investing in job-creating enterprises. At the same time, they need to make educating the workers to fill those jobs a principle focus of their philanthropy.

Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan gives 50 percent of his annual income (including capital gains) to charities, mostly for the benefit of poor children. Eli Broad and his wife, Edye, have invested billions of dollars to improve K-12 schools, advance scientific and medical research and increase public access to contemporary art. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rare 2014 presents

The year just receded can't serve as a scaffold of hope. There's nothing inspiring about it nor is there a reason to be optimistic of 2014. Not after chasing the elusive "better times" that seems to have disappeared into the horizon a long time ago. People at the helm have apparently fled reality or the nightmarish and troubling pile of fiscal issues screaming for help.

It was time for diversionary reading. I decided to review Buddy Magoo's script on a book he's slaving to complete. I finally found time to do syntactic and content analysis. A lot of his sentences aren't necessarily grammatical but its secret is in your being equipped with Chamorro-Iñglis in order to put context into his essays. Afterwards, I decided to quiz him on a number of issues he raised in his script.

Smiling, he showed the cover of his book inscribed, *Don't Broke! Why talk about bankruptcy?*

"Because the NMI government is, in fact, bankrupt!"

Quickly noted that governments are usually broke.

"It's indicative of its inability to measure its 'fiscal gap' or future debts versus future receipts."

Pressed him further, "Your view of government spending?"

"Every dollar spent without a dollar in the treasury is debt or deficit spending," he pointed out.

"But government does that all the time," I noted.

"Yep! But it's a spending habit that shows lack of conscious leadership," he pointed out.

"But government has revenue streams to cover its debts," I refuted guardedly.

"It's the accrual system—spending before actual collection—which is bad," he said.

We basically agreed about the need for some sense of frugality and he should give the guys and gals on the hill a copy of his book to review this year. I mean, the guys still go junketing when paradise is burning in the magma of bankruptcy! How could they miss this fiscal inferno?

Isn't the NMI floored in the filthy swamp of debts and deficit spending, i.e., shortage of \$12 million for pension pay, \$18 million for CUC utility bills, etc.?

Lia's scribbling too

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disrespect

An open letter to Vicente Camacho, director of the Office of Military Liaison and Veteran's Affairs: I would like to extend my gratitude to the Department of Veterans Affairs and your liaison office for its services during my father's, Antonio Q. Maratita's, funeral. I would also like to thank you for the heartache it has caused me and my sister. If I am not mistaken, it is military protocol that the folded U.S. flag is presented to the next of kin. I myself was not able to attend my father's funeral but my younger sister did. I do believe you were made aware of this. However, it seemed incumbent upon you to proceed to present the flag to my father's brother, Oscar Quitugua. I hope you are proud of the disheartening and repudiating impression the Department of Veterans Affairs and your liaison office have left with me and my sister and of bestowing a sense of entitlement upon Mr. Quitugua, who only took in my father in the last few months of his life. My sister and I have kindly asked for the flag, but Mr. Quitugua, as his wife not so kindly expressed, refuses to give it to us. I hope that other families seeking your services are not met with such disregard and disrespect as we have been.

Antolynn Maratita
Tigard, OR

SENATOR

From Page 10

olarchs—appears to be hijacked by Ukrainian Catholic, neo-Nazi, nationalists.

The New York Times reported Dec. 17 that the nationalist Svoboda Party have taken over the center of the protests and barred liberal elements from the city hall.

This is the standard way democracy movements have been hijacked. The Bolsheviks worked with the moderate Russian revolutionaries in 1917 at first, but as soon as the Tsar was removed, the communists ousted and often executed the middle class liberals—their duped former partners. When you lie down with wolves it is wise to expect they will soon turn on you.

Just as I was leaving the store where Magoo was sipping his beer, Lia pulled in and asked that I also review her script. Wow! Looks like this must be the literary season penned in frustration!

Lia has a simpler theme on health, *Don't Sick*. Interesting coincidence in the use of the contraction "don't" but both had meaningful issues.

"So what pushed you to write about staying healthy?" I quizzed Lia.

Said she, "Hidden its cost, it's a very expensive item in any family or government budget."

In agreement, having gone through it from A-Z. I asked her how does the indigenous population deal with genetic predisposition? Lifestyle is easy to deal with. Genetics simply means a certain serious illness is in your blood and you'd get hit at some point in your life.

"The genetics aspect needs to be addressed by public health officials," she said. "It's hidden and a mapping of sort is needed so we begin addressing how to deal with heart problems, Type II diabetes, kidney failure," among others. Heavy stuff, huh? Don't sick!

More books on the way

Headed home to the quiet corner of my back porch when my spouse handed me the phone. It was Tan Chu' Chiba who also wanted a review of his script.

His book title is a bit unforgiving, *Don't Stupid!*

His material is largely a warning to voters to elect quality candidates and a stern admonishment of legislators who travel amidst the bankruptcy of the local government.

He included a chapter, "Don't Airplane," you know, traveling when this government is literally broke, drowning in the filthy swamp of budgetary shortfall.

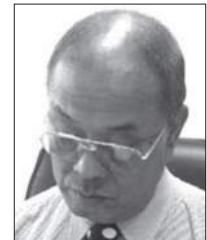
Or how about the Guangzhou trip where legislators claim their integrity isn't compromised. Well, people, we're not as stupid as we look, are we? Read carefully now, a "freebie" is itself a compromise of your integrity, isn't it? It's ludicrous to deny it, only to confirm hypocrisy.

As educated voters increase and register to participate, the more the challenge intensifies for politicians to justify and navi-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



gate their way to victory.

Add I Don't Know Maria!

The list of books won't be complete unless I add my own scribble, *I Don't Know Maria!* It's a mix of satire, comedy, and the entire nine yards of indigenous common sense that doesn't make sense. It's a literal tossing of hope into no man's land where you simply declare "No mas!"

Some are hard hitting, others pure humor, the rest fodder for leisurely reading. But then my material is written in the vernacular. Well, most of the humor is best told in the vernacular with moral messages. There's also a chapter on what I've coined, "Mystery" where politicians redefine the term integrity. Woe!

Frustrating though our inability to define our future. That too has a chapter that vilifies the combined lack of definition and our special ability at problem identification. You push the needle into the resolution stage and everybody panics, chiming, "It's not my job!" Then whose is it?

The quality of leadership plays a key role in how well we address and, yes, resolve issues. If half the time leadership is clueless, it's the repeat in computer lingo, "Trash in, trash out."

Lest we forget, the NMI has a lot of indigenous resource, people it could employ to remap the future of these isles. The disorientation that suffocates the quality of livelihood of simple villagers can't be allowed to settle in mediocrity and apathy. It's time to move the needle forward collectively.

Perhaps we ought to use the Laffer Curve as a reminder that we've been down the path of failure and we need not repeat history. Otherwise, we'd all be chiming, "I don't know Maria!"

A return to simple living

In a recent editorial of Mr. John DelRosario posits a point about the CNMI's dismal economy and his assessment of what is to be expected in year 2014 about our cost of living staying stagnant, if not getting worse. Perhaps it is time to revisit the crystal ball anew on this troubling but critical expectation about life in the NMI. Is "subsistence economy" now more plausible than the promise of the "cash economy" that we keep searching without real capital and resources native to the NMI? If the people of the NMI do not define and know what level of contentment in life and lifestyle is good for them, then we will never find what is at the end of the rainbow, even with all the pseudo promises of the global economy that we seem to worship as our cash cow and panacea for all our woes and worries.

First of all, we all need to search and capture the free service of nature. Simplicity and contentment in life is the first step. Take for example the use of a cardboard box and a discarded mirror, from which one could cook a meal in the hot sun like what we have here. Placing a cow's feet in a pot with water in a solar stove box would cook in about 2 hours when the sun's heat is captured at a perfect angle. Imagine cooking during a hot day between 11am and 1pm of the day. The flesh of the cow's feet would peel from the bone like a drip of tempura batter.

Vegetables when overcooked are not at their best nutritious condition. It is better to eat vegetable in its raw nature. The added ben-

efit is that you do not have to resort to burning any cooking fuel or twisting the lever of a stove to heat the vegetable. For instance, I eat eskabeche raw, no fish. The process is simple, I chop all the vegetable of the eskabeche, add a tablespoon of freshly chopped turmeric, include in the mix one or two leaves of aloe vera, add 5,000 mg of vitamin C crystal powder, some slices of available local fruit in season for sweetness, and, if lucky and available, some freshly squeezed orange or tangerine make a tasty treat or any fruit of some sort, and maybe pouring in a half-cup of water for smoothness, then turn on the blender or food processor, and voila, a meal that would sustain you for the whole day and it is 100-percent natural and good for you.

If this lifestyle is simple enough and a base of life contentment, would this be something that people who have less would consider by turning to nature as nature provides for all living things? This is a lifestyle alternative, and would be worthwhile to consider by those wishing to make a difference by making changes to their ordinary lifestyle, starting in 2014. It would be good for all to start the discourse on alternative living in light of our limited resources and the idiosyncrasy of island-style standard of living on these islands. Green living is not a bad idea and it is equal to nature.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

backed Viktor Yanukovych.

Now the Svoboda Party, linked to the Nazi partisans of the war, hopes to hijack the latest moderate, secular uprising in Ukraine.

What is the answer to these hijackers?

■ Expose extremist, racist and other undemocratic tendencies on all sides.

■ Divide power on decision-making bodies so extremists are only a minority.

■ Throw the wolves a bone such as limited responsibility for small sectors in rotation with moderate groups.

■ Insist that universal laws apply to all groups and anyone who jails or executes unarmed people will end up in international courts.

We must hijack the hijackers and clearly back only groups and individuals who shun extremism and observe the rule of law as set forth in United Nations instruments or treaties.

The Sandinistas in Nicaragua in the 1980s likewise joined with liberal academics and journalists to get rid of the Somoza dictatorship. Then the Sandinistas turned on the moderates and seized all power.

Hijacking is an effective and ruthless route to power. You only need back moderates who will place themselves in the way of danger, provide martyrs for the cause, spark international retribution against the ruling authorities and then prove incapable of managing the country.

Ukraine already had this experience. After the 2004 Orange Revolution, the government of Viktor Yushchenko proved weak and soon resorted to nationalism to remain popular. It honored Ukrainian partisans who fought for the Nazi Germans against Russia in World War II. The Kiev government soon lost credibility and support paving the way for disenchanted voters to turn back to the Russian-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▾ 77°	▲ 87° ▾ 77°	▲ 87° ▾ 77°	▲ 87° ▾ 77°	▲ 87° ▾ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73 ▾ 63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 49 ▾ 25
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▾ 68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▾ 45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 75 ▾ 48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78 ▾ 56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▾ 72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▾ 30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▾ 39
Paris	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 44
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▾ 38
Rome	Showers	▲ 55 ▾ 51
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▾ 45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▾ 45
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▾ 27
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 52 ▾ 35
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▾ 35

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:43 AM	5:58 PM	Today	7:04 AM	6:54 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM	Friday	8:01 AM	7:57 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM	Saturday	8:54 AM	8:59 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM	Sunday	9:44 AM	9:58 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM	Monday	10:30 AM	10:54 PM

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ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 21, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
D2102	2:20am	5:50am	3
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
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Business

For 2014, experts foresee an economy that will hit its stride

By KEVIN G. HALL
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—For the first time since 2007, the U.S. economy is poised to start the new year on a strong footing amid a flurry of signs that point to a firming recovery.

From sales of cars and homes to hiring and the booming stock market, there are reasons to finally believe that the coming year will be markedly better than the last, and that a fits-and-starts-recovery will hit its stride.

"I would argue that we're coming out of rehab finally in the United States," said Ethan Harris, a top economist for Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The U.S. economy grew at a sizzling 4.1 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the Commerce Department said Dec. 20. That's stronger than previously thought.

Aided by the Federal Reserve's bond buying to stimulate risk taking and broader economic recovery, stocks closed 2013 on a tear, posting their best performance in almost two decades.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished the year at 16,576.66, up about 27 percent from where it was Dec. 31, 2012, when the Dow stood at 12,883.52. That's the best year since 1995.

Obama's tarnished health care law at a crossroads

WASHINGTON (AP)—All things good, bad and unpredictable converge with the new year for President Barack Obama's health care overhaul as the law's major benefits take effect, along with an unpopular insurance mandate and a risk of more nerve-wracking disruptions to coverage.

The changes bring big improvements for some, including Howard Kraft of Lincolnton, N.C. A painful spinal problem left him unable to work as a hotel bellman. But he's got coverage because federal law now forbids insurers from turning away people with health problems.

"I am not one of these people getting a policy because I'm being made to," Kraft said. "I need one to stay alive."

What's good for millions like Kraft is secured through what others see as an imposition: requiring virtually every American to get covered, either through an employer, a government program, or by buying a plan directly.

But the health care headlines early this year could come from continued unpre-

The S&P 500 closed at 1,848.36, up 30 percent from 1,398.11 a year earlier. And the tech-heavy NASDAQ finished 2013 at 4,176.59, sharply above the 2,953.52 close a year before.

"We have been painting a pretty optimistic picture of 2014 U.S. growth," Scott Anderson, the chief economist for Bank of the West in San Francisco, said in an outlook for the coming year. "Indeed, recent economic releases have added to that rosy picture."

"That inventory build everyone seems to be fretting about does not seem unwanted at all. Rather, it's a response to stronger demand," Neil Dutta, the head of U.S. economic research for Renaissance Macro Research in New York, said in a note to investors.

In his final forecast as the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke said Dec. 18 that the Fed expected growth of 2.8 percent to 3.2 percent in 2014. That's a bit rosier than the 2.5 percent to 3 percent that most mainstream economists project.

Automobile sales are one area that already is reflecting improved consumer confidence.

Analysts expect sales to have exceeded 15.6 million vehicles in 2013, up 8 percent over 2012, according to the car

Economy on a stronger footing

How six different economic indicators compare, 2012 to 2013:

Unemployment rate

Nov. '12	7.7%
Nov. '13	7.0

Monthly jobs added

Nov. '12	161,000*
Nov. '13	203,000

Long-term unemployment

26 weeks or more	
Nov. '12	4.8 million
Nov. '13	4.1

Third quarter GDP

2012	2.8%
2013	4.1**

New housing starts

Monthly average for first 11 months of each year	
2012	752,000
2013	897,000

Automobile sales

2012	15.2 million
2013	16.0***

*Reflects revision made in December jobs report

**Reflects third estimate published on Dec. 20, 2013

***Annualized rates reflect estimate based on 11 months of data and December projection

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Association of Realtors, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Kelley Blue Book

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sales reference company Kelley Blue Book.

They anticipate sales increasing another 4.3 percent in 2014, to 16.3 million units.

That would be the first time the figure has been above 16 million since 2007, the year before the financial crisis and the Great Recession.

The outlook for the manufacturing sector, an outsized one when it comes to hiring, is cautiously upbeat.

"When I talk to manufacturers about next year, they tend to be mostly optimistic," said Chad Moutray, the chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers. "They see their sales and production

Latvia becomes 18th country to adopt the euro

RIGA, Latvia (AP)—Latvia celebrated the new year as the 18th member of the eurozone, which for all its dents and bruises still represents stability and security to the Baltic country's leaders.

The euro became Latvia's official currency after midnight local time Tuesday (2200 GMT Monday) as New Year's rockets exploded in the skies over the capital, Riga.

Acting Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis withdrew the first euro note from a bank machine in a ceremony in Riga after Latvian TV showed pre-recorded greetings from European leaders welcoming his country to the eurozone.

"It's a big opportunity for

Latvia's economic development becoming a member of the world's second biggest currency," Dombrovskis said.

After joining NATO and the European Union in 2004, entering the eurozone was seen as a natural step for Latvia's political leadership, deepening the Western integration they have sought since Latvia and its Baltic neighbors, Estonia and Lithuania, broke away from the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

"Joining the euro marks the completion of Latvia's journey back to the political and economic heart of our continent, and that is something for all of us to celebrate," said Olli Rehn, the EU commissioner in charge of

Brewery responds to Starbucks letter with \$6 check

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A small Missouri brewery has responded to a cease and desist letter from Starbucks by sending the coffee chain a check to cover what it calls the profit from use of the word "Frappuccino"—a check for \$6.

Exit 6 Pub and Brewery in the St. Louis suburb of Cottleville named one of its brews the Frappuccino, with one c instead of the two that Starbucks uses for its blended beverages. That prompted an attorney for Starbucks Coffee Co. to send Exit 6 a letter on Dec. 9.

The letter from attorney Anessa Owen Kramer noted that the Seattle-based company "is the owner of a number of world-famous trademarks, including the well-known FRAPPUCINO trademark." It said that the words are "phonetically identical" and that Exit 6's use of Frappuccino "is likely to cause confusion, mistake."

In his sarcastic response letter, Exit 6 owner Jeff Britton also wrote that the brewery "never thought that our beer drinking customers would have thought that the alcoholic beverage com-

economic and monetary affairs.

However, many Latvians are skeptical about the euro. Opinion polls show about half opposed to the currency switch, though support has risen somewhat this year.

Some are reluctant to give up Latvia's own currency, the lat, a powerful symbol of independence.

There's also concern about the eurozone's financial woes in recent years and resentment toward the austerity measures imposed by the government partly to fulfill the bloc's stringent membership criteria.

Estonia joined the eurozone in 2011 and Lithuania aims to become a member in 2015.

That would complete the Baltic countries' efforts to link up economically, politically and militarily with the West while moving away from Russia's sphere of influence.

European leaders hailed Latvia's entry as a boost for the currency bloc, even though the relatively poor country of only 2 million people is a tiny part of the eurozone economy.

Some experts have expressed concern about Latvia's reputation as a haven for suspicious money from the East, just nine months after the eurozone had to rescue Cyprus, a similarly tiny member state that also specialized in attracting huge deposits from Russia.

Starbucks spokeswoman Laurel Harper said the company was glad the brewery agreed to stop using the name.

"It's been unbelievable," Britton said. "People are just saying, 'Hey, read the story, good job.' I'm getting emails and Facebook messages from Germany, China, England. People are just clamoring for it."

Starbucks spokeswoman Laurel Harper said the company was glad the brewery agreed to stop using the name.

picking up next year."

One reason for Moutray's optimism is improvement in the housing sector. Manufacturing for housing has picked up as new-home starts heat up and more people remodel existing homes. Prices of existing homes rose in 2013 at their fastest pace in eight years, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Homebuilders report that new-home starts are expected to finish 2013 at about 900,000, a healthy clip, though still well below pre-crisis levels of about 1.6 million. The National Association for Business Economics forecasts about 1.1 million new-home starts for 2014.

Sales of existing homes, however, are a wild card for 2014. The combination of rising home prices and climbing mortgage rates may make affordability an issue for many potential buyers. The National Association of Realtors expects the rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage to go above 5 percent by the middle of the new year. It stood at 4.56 percent last week.

On a brighter note, the outlook for U.S. exports is an additional factor that suggests stronger economic growth in 2014, said Nariman Behravesh, the chief economist for forecaster IHS Global Insight.

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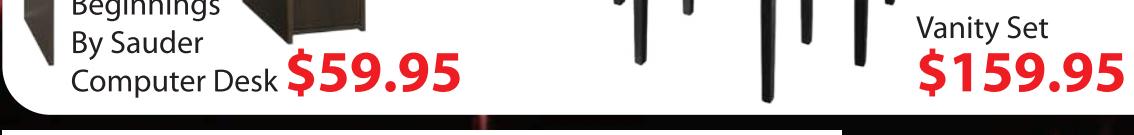
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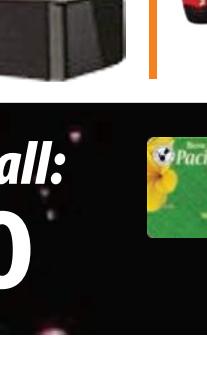
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Nation

Ball drops in NYC's Times Square, ushering in 2014

NEW YORK (AP)—A sea of horn-tooting, hat-wearing revelers cheered and some even smooched as the famed crystal ball dropped in freezing New York City's Times Square to

ring in 2014, capping a worldwide wave of celebrations that included a dazzling 30-minute fireworks show in Dubai and a deluge of confetti in London that tasted as good as it looked.

Bronx-born U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor led the 60-second countdown and pushed the button that unleashed the shimmering orb with 2,688 crystals, a role usu-

ally filled by the New York City mayor. Mayor Michael Bloomberg, on his last day in office, sat out the celebration after 12 years on the job, while newly elected Mayor Bill de Blasio took the oath of office just after midnight at his Brooklyn home.

Kerrie McConaghay, 20, a university student visiting Times Square from Armagh, Ireland, was dancing and jumping up and down, donning a big blue top hat.

"It's unbelievable here," she said. "The lights, seeing the ball, hearing the music, all the people. It's amazing."

"TV doesn't do this justice," she said. "You have to be here to believe it."

Marcus Ix, 34, visiting from Germany, gave his wife, Sabrina, a big kiss when the ball dropped and confetti rained down.

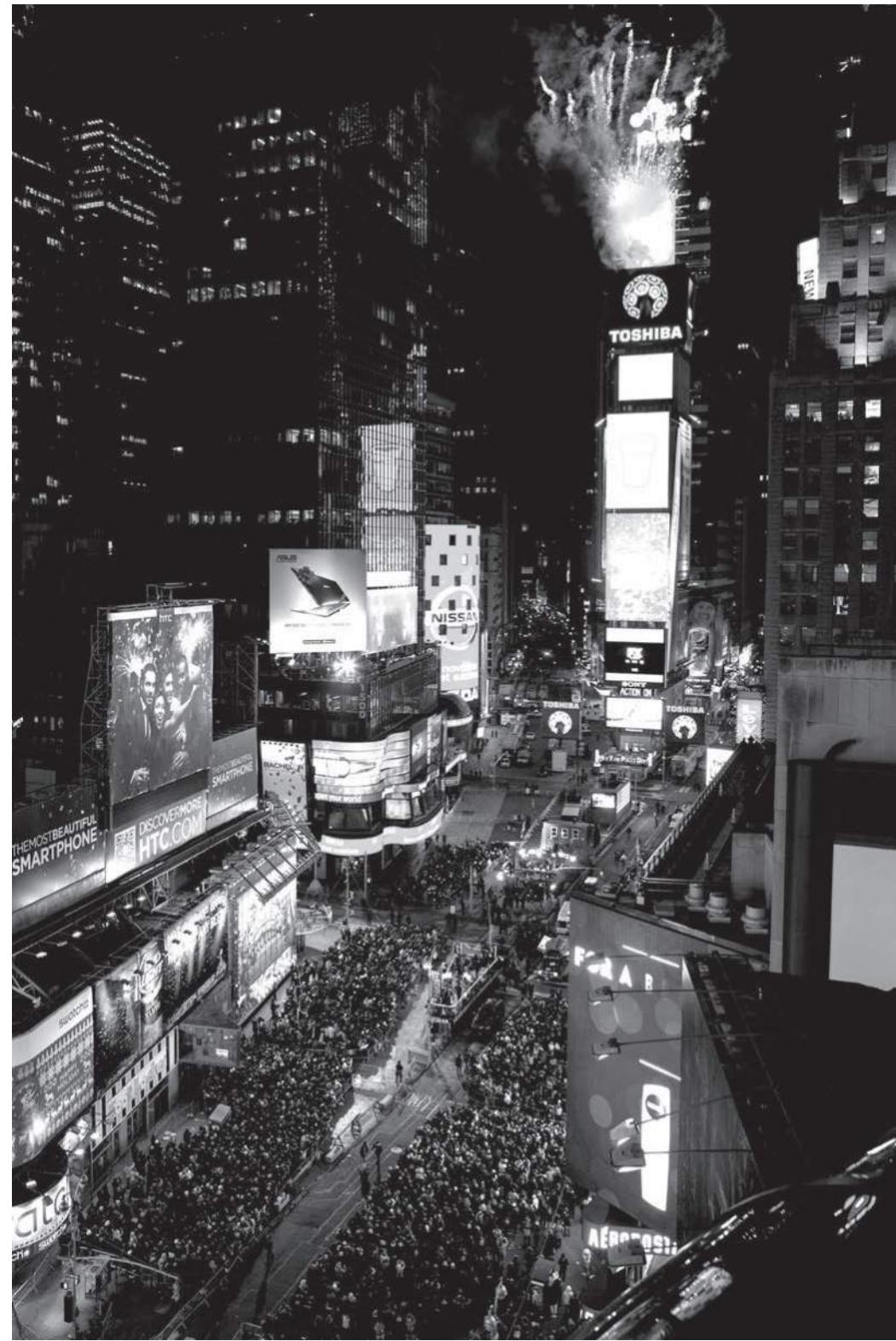
"This is the best New Year's Eve of my life," he said as the crowd erupted with cheers and cries of "Happy New Year!" "It was worth the 13 hour wait in the cold."

The annual New York celebration, which this year featured performances from artists such as Miley Cyrus, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and Blondie, has become part endurance sport because post-9/11 security measures force spectators into pens at least 12 hours in advance, with no food,

warmth or bathrooms.

"We've got adult diapers. We're wearing them right now," said 14-year-old Amber Woods, who came with friends from the New York City's suburbs to experience the event for the first time. They entered their corral at 10 a.m. Tuesday. For nourishment, they brought lollipops and popcorn. For the cold, they did a lot of jumping in place.

"Every time I say, it's the last. But then I come back," said Yasmina Merrir, a 42-year-old Washington, D.C., resident attending her fourth Times Square ball drop. In 2009, the cold was so bad, she got hypothermia. Her legs swelled up like balloons.



Looking from the Marriott Marquis hotel, fireworks erupt from One Times Square as the Waterford Crystal ball that will mark the new year is raised into position at six hours before midnight for New Year's Eve celebrations in New York Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013.

Barbara Bush hospitalized in Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—Former first lady Barbara Bush has been hospitalized in Houston with a respiratory-related issue, her husband's office said Tuesday night.

The statement from the office of former President George H.W. Bush said Mrs. Bush was admitted to Houston Methodist Hospital on Monday.

"She is in great spirits, has already received visits from

her husband and family, and is receiving fantastic care," the brief statement said.

Just last week, Mrs. Bush, 88, and her husband, the 41st president, honored a Houston businessman and philanthropist with a Points of Light Award, a volunteer service award started by the former president.

The Bushes' home is in Houston.

Mrs. Bush had a reputation



Bush

for bluntness when her husband was president. Her son, George W. Bush, was the 43rd president.

The Bush family matriarch had heart surgery in March 2009 for a severe narrowing of the main heart valve. She also was hospitalized in November 2008, when she underwent surgery for a perforated ulcer. In 2010, she was admitted to the hospital after having a mild relapse of Graves disease, a thyroid condition for which she was treated in 1989.

Hospital won't aid transfer of girl on ventilator

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A California hospital is unwilling to allow an outside doctor to fit a 13-year-old declared brain dead after tonsil surgery with the breathing and feeding tubes that would allow her to be safely transferred to another facility.

Lawyer Douglas Straus said Tuesday that Children's Hospital Oakland would not permit the procedures on its premises because Jahi McMath is legally dead in the view of the doctors who have examined her.

But Straus reiterated in a letter to the lawyer representing McMath's mother that the hospital would release the girl's body as soon as her family provided a detailed plan about accomplishing the move.

Meanwhile, a state appeals court judge on Tuesday refused to order the hospital to insert the tubes, saying the issue has to go first to a lower court judge.

A 13-year-old California

girl declared brain dead after tonsil surgery remained on life support Tuesday after a state judge gave her family at least another week to find a place to move her.

Doctors at Children's Hospital Oakland want to take Jahi McMath off the machines that are keeping her body functioning, saying she will never recover. Her family wants to continue life support, saying they have hope she will still pull through.

Jahi's mother, Nailah Winkfield, hailed the judge's decision to give them until Jan. 7 before allowing the hospital to withdraw life support as an answer to her prayers and a sign that she has been right to keep fighting for the teen.

With television cameras clustered outside the hospital, the family maintained a vigil as the Monday deadline approached.

When Winkfield heard of the judge's decision to push

back the deadline, she wept and hugged relatives outside the hospital.

"Who wants to know the date and the time their child would die?" Winkfield said. "I don't care what anyone has to say about what I'm doing. ... I have to do what is right for me and for Jahi."

She said she does not believe her daughter is dead because her heart is still beating.

Shortly before a previous ruling would have allowed doctors to end life support at 5 p.m. Monday, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo ordered the hospital to keep Jahi on a ventilator until Jan. 7 to give the family time to file a petition in state appellate court.

Grillo's ruling Monday is the latest twist in a harrowing legal and medical fight that has reignited a heated debate about when life support should end for a severely brain-damaged person.

Asia

Japan promises equality, but women find few jobs

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wants women like Tomo Tamai to go back to work.

Tamai is eager to do so, nearly two years after her first child was born, but so far the 35-year-old former national government employee has only been able to find an internship.

Abe, who took office a year ago, has made the advancement of women a pillar of his economic revival policies in the most aggressive and ambitious initiative to back the rise of Japanese women in years. Tamai's struggles show why doubts remain about whether it's enough to overcome entrenched discrimination in the workplace.

"It is a bunch of flag-waving," said Tamai, who holds a doctorate in literature from Nihon University. "I don't see how he has the vision to realize the goal of helping us, those people struggling to raise a child, working and doing housework."

The government is beefing up child care. It is encouraging companies to grant three years of

maternity leave, or flexible hours during that period. It is also asking publicly held companies to promote women to leadership positions so they hold 30 percent of such posts by 2020.

Although women make up 40 percent of Japan's workers, they face discrimination in hiring, promotion and pay. On average, a Japanese woman makes 70 percent of a man's wage for equal work, according to government data.

The government also says women held just 12 percent of private-sector managerial jobs in 2012 and fared even worse at higher levels, making up only 5 percent of section chiefs. Some critics and women workers say they tend to be confined to second-class status, not taken seriously for what is considered "a man's job."

They are underrepresented in government as well, comprising 11 percent of the more powerful lower house of parliament, 18 percent of the upper house, and just 2.5 percent of managerial positions among public servants.

ASIA BRIEFS

New Year in Philippines kills 2, injures 599

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say two people have been killed and nearly 600 others injured by fireworks and celebratory gunfire in celebrations for the New Year. Department of Health spokesman Dr. Eric Tayag said 50 hospitals nationwide reported 599 injured from Dec. 21 to Jan. 1, a 43 percent jump from the same period last year. In the northern Cagayan province, a fireworks fountain display packed with firecrackers killed a 19-year-old man while an infant boy was killed by a bullet that went through the roof of the family's house in northern Ilocos Sur province. The deaths and injuries come at the end of a year where several disasters hit the country, including a Nov. 8 typhoon that left more than 6,100 dead and nearly 1,800 others missing.

Coalition casualties in Afghanistan drop in 2013

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S.-led international forces in Afghanistan suffered the lowest number of casualties in the past six years in 2013, but Afghan security forces saw their casualties mount as they took the lead in the 12-year war against the Taliban. The figures underline the dangers this nation still faces as the NATO-led mission nears its end in Afghanistan in 2014. According to an Associated Press tally, NATO casualties fell to 151 in 2013, down from 394 a year earlier. The U.S. bore the brunt of these attacks, with 118 deaths, down from 297 in 2012.

Indonesia anti-terror squad kills 6 militants

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Police say their anti-terror squad shot and killed six suspected militants and arrested another in an all-night standoff at a house near Indonesia's capital. National police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar says the shootout started late Tuesday when most Indonesians were preparing for New Year's Eve celebration and ended Wednesday. Intelligence gathered from earlier arrests allowed police to storm hideouts in Ciputat on Jakarta's southern outskirts. He says those who were killed had refused to surrender and instead fired guns and lobbed homemade bombs at security forces, injuring one police officer.

Shots at rally in northern Afghan province kill 2

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says gunshots erupted during a rally in a northern province where a group was protesting the selection of candidates for the 2014 elections, killing two people and wounding eight. Governor Khirullah Anosh says the shooting took place on Tuesday outside his office in the town of Aibak in Samangan province. About 300 people had gathered for the protest. Anosh says the protest was organized by Asif Azimi, an ex-senator from the region who saw his candidacy for next year's provincial council elections rejected by the authorities because of standing criminal accusations against him.



MISS TOURISM INTERNATIONAL

Angeli Dione Gomez of the Philippines reacts after she was named the winner in the Miss Tourism International 2013 World Final in Putrajaya, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013.

Myanmar pardons political offenders

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar freed five prisoners Tuesday and more are expected to be released next week as part of a pledge by the country's president to free all political prisoners by the end of 2013.

They were freed after President Thein Sein granted a pardon Monday to those convicted of or charged with a variety of political offenses, such as unlawful association, high treasons, contempt of government and violations of the peaceful assembly law.

The amnesty follows a prom-

ise by Thein Sein in July that all political prisoners will be freed by the end of the year. In addition, the decree halted all ongoing trials and investigations connected with those charges.

Those freed had their names on list from the Political Prisoners Scrutinizing Committee, said Bo Kyi, a member of the committee. He added that "more people are expected to be freed in the next batch in the first week of January."

"We welcome the presidential pardon order. However, several steps need to be taken

to maintain a level of zero political prisoners. There must be rule of law and more political freedom to maintain that level," Bo Kyi said.

The five were freed from district prisons and Yangon's notorious Insein prison.

"We were freed today because the laws that were used to put us behind bars are weak. Anyway, I respect the president for keeping his promise to free political prisoners before end of the year," said Yan Naing Tun, one of several political prisoners freed from Insein prison.

NKorea claims strength after removal of 'filth'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Kim Jong Un boasted Wednesday that North Korea enters the new year on a surge of strength because of the elimination of "factionalist filth"—a reference to the young leader's once powerful uncle, whose execution last month has raised questions about Kim's grip on power.

Kim's comments in an annual New Year's Day message, which included a call for improved ties with Seoul, will be scrutinized by outside analysts and governments for clues about the opaque country's intentions and policy goals. There's widespread worry about the country's future since Kim publicly humiliated and then executed his uncle and mentor, one of the biggest political developments in Pyongyang in years, and certainly since Kim took power two years ago after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il.

North Korea's "resolute" action to "eliminate factionalist filth" within the ruling Workers' Party has bolstered the country's unity "by 100 times," Kim said in a speech broadcast by state TV. He didn't mention by name his uncle, Jang Song Thaek, long considered the country's No. 2 power.

Kim called for an improvement in strained ties with South Korea, saying it's time for each side to stop slandering the other. He urged Seoul to listen to voices calling for unification between the countries. The language on unification, which is similar to that of past New Year's messages, is an obvious improvement on last year's threats of nuclear war, though there is still deep skepticism in Washington and Seoul about Pyongyang's intentions.

North Korea's authoritarian and secretive government is extremely difficult for outsiders to interpret, and analysts are divided about the meaning of Jang's execution on treason charges. Many, however, believe that the purge shows Kim Jong Un struggling to establish the same absolute power that his father and grandfather enjoyed. The public announcement of Jang's fall opened up a rare and unfavorable window on the country's inner workings, showing an alleged power struggle between Kim and his uncle after the 2011 death of Kim Jong Il.

Jang's public downfall was seen as an acknowledgement of dissension and loss of control by the ruling Kim dynasty.

World

Police, troops heavy in bomb-hit Russian city

VOLGOGRAD, Russia

(AP)—Eerily empty buses lumbered through the streets, police weighed down with body armor warily watched pedestrians near a fast-food restaurant, and members of Cossack units stood guard at bus stops. Volgograd was an ominous and jittery city Tuesday after two suicide bombings in two days killed 34 people.

Volgograd authorities canceled mass events for New Year's Eve, one of Russia's most popular holidays, and asked residents not to set off fireworks. All movie theaters were closed until Thursday.

"People are afraid it will happen again. They're trying not to go outside if they don't have to," said 20-year-old Yulia Kuzmina, a student. "We get a feeling that a war has started."

That is a worry that extends far beyond Volgograd.

Although there has been no claim of responsibility for the bombing of the city's main railway station and a trolley bus, suspicion has fallen on Islamist insurgents, whose leader ordered his adherents over the summer to do all they could to derail the Winter Olympics, which start Feb. 7 in the Russian



A woman puts a flower outside a wreckage of a trolleybus in Volgograd, Russia, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013. AP

resort city of Sochi.

Olympic organizers have introduced some of the most extensive identity checks and other security measures ever

seen at an international sporting event. But even if security at the Games is tight, many analysts suggest that the Volgograd bombings show how

public transit in Sochi and sites away from the sports venues are vulnerable.

Police reinforcements and Interior Ministry troops have been

sent into Volgograd, regional police official Andrei Pilipchuk was quoted as telling the Interfax news agency. He said more than 5,200 security forces are



Source: ESRI Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2013 MCT

deployed in the city of 1 million, but did not say how much of an increase that was from normal levels.

Officers and security guards searched the purses of young women entering a shopping center and waved metal detectors over both males and females.

The Cossacks guarding some bus stops added an unsettling note. Although these units are officially authorized volunteer patrols, they are descendants of the fierce horsemen who protected the czars and launched raids on Muslims in the Russian Caucasus, where the Islamist insurgency is now centered.

Egypt seizes Brotherhood, Islamist leaders' assets

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's interim government has ordered the assets of more than 500 Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist leaders seized—including those of the country's ousted president—as part of an ever-tightening crackdown on the group, senior judicial and security officials said Tuesday.

The escalation came as the military vowed to confront "the forces of terrorism and darkness" and protect the upcoming Jan. 14-15 vote on Egypt's draft constitution. Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi called on Egyptians to head to the polls as their "top national duty," saying that a "heavy turnout" is the only guarantee of a successful vote.

Abdel-Azim el-Ashri, a Justice Ministry spokesman, said that a ministerial inventory committee ordered the "movable and immovable properties" of 572 Muslim Brotherhood leaders seized.

Another Justice Ministry official said leaders on the list included toppled President Mohammed Morsi and his family, as well as provincial Brotherhood leaders and members of its General Guidance Bureau, which is the group's executive body.

A security official said the list also included female Muslim Brotherhood members like Azza el-Garf and wife of leader Khairat el-Shater and his daughter. He said other Islamist leaders include As-

sem Abdel-Maged, the leader of Gamaa Islamiyah, which waged an anti-government insurgency in 1990s against autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

The two officials said that the list includes those indicted in cases of inciting violence and those are under investigation or those who could be investigated.

The order is part of a wider state crackdown on the Brotherhood, first banned by a court order in September and declared a "terrorist" organization by the military-backed interim government last week. The court order allowed the government to form the committee that inventoried of the group's finances and ordered its confiscation.

Small improvement for Schumacher after 2nd surgery

GRENOBLE, France (AP)—Michael Schumacher underwent a second surgery after a brain scan showed small, "surprising" signs of improvement, but grim doctors said Tuesday they could offer no insight into the prognosis for the Formula One champion.

Schumacher, who turns 45 on Friday, suffered critical head injuries when he fell and struck a rock Sunday while skiing on a family vacation in the French Alps. His manager confirmed that the accident cracked his helmet, which doctors credited for giving him a chance at survival.

Schumacher's condition stabilized somewhat after the second surgery, but he remains in a medically induced coma—and doctors gave no prediction on how long that would last.

"We cannot tell you any more about the future," said Gerard Saillant, a surgeon and friend of the family who is in Grenoble. Saillant said it would be "stupid" to make any predictions about Schumacher's recovery.

Schumacher and his 14-year-old son were skiing in the French Alpine resort of Meribel, where the family has a chalet, when he fell and hit the right side of his head on a rock. He was taken first to a local hospital, then to Grenoble University Hospital, which is recognized as having one of France's best neurology teams.

Dr. Emmanuel Gay, the hos-

pital's chief neurosurgeon, said a brain scan performed late Monday showed bruising "a little bit everywhere" in Schumacher's brain—but also an unexpected easing of pressure.

"The brain scan was, I must say, surprising," he said.

But Gay and other doctors cautioned that Schumacher's condition was still grave after the successful two-hour surgery to eliminate the largest and most accessible bruise, on the left side of his brain.

"We cannot say he is out of danger," said Dr. Jean-Francois Payen, head of the hospital's intensive care unit. Payen said any neurological evaluation was "out of the question" for now.

Payen told BFM-TV on Monday that medical literature puts the recovery rate at 40 to 45 percent of patients. "I don't work with statistics. I work with patients," he was quoted as saying.

Schumacher was being kept artificially sedated and his body temperature was lowered to between 34 and 35 degrees Celsius (93.2 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit), to reduce swelling in the brain, reduce its energy consumption and allow it to rest.

Schumacher earned universal acclaim for his uncommon and sometimes ruthless driving talent, which led to a record 91 race wins. He retired from Formula One last year after garnering an unmatched seven world titles.

S. Sudan rebels take most of strategic city of Bor

JUBA, South Sudan (AP)—Anti-government rebels in South Sudan took control of nearly all of a strategic city on Tuesday, even as officials announced that representatives from the government and the rebels agreed to hold talks for the first time.

The announcement that talks would soon take place in neighboring Ethiopia was the first political breakthrough since ethnically-based violence began coursing through South Sudan late on Dec. 15. The violence has killed more than 1,000 peo-

ple—a number that is believed to be a low estimate—and has seen the country's two most powerful ethnic groups fight each other.

The U.S. envoy to the region, Donald Booth, met with President Salva Kiir on Tuesday—their fourth meeting in eight days—and spoke on the phone with the former vice president, Riek Machar, who is accused by the government of having tried to carry out a coup, a charge he denies.

Booth told reporters in Juba that the commitment to meet by

the two sides was a "first step but very important step" toward achieving a cessation of hostilities and substantive talks to resolve the underlying political issues that could bring a halt to the violence.

Earlier in the day, heavy fighting erupted in Bor, the contested provincial capital of Jonglei state, which is a short drive from the capital, Juba. Government troops battled renegade forces loyal to Machar including the Nuer tribal militia known as the "White Army," said military spokesman Col. Philip Aguer.

Formula One driver
Michael Schumacher

Early life

Born 1969 in Huerth-Hermuelheim, Germany
Family Married, two children

Career

1973 Makes racing debut in kart race
1987 Wins German and European kart championships
1991 Makes Formula One debut
1992 Takes first Grand Prix win
2000 Wins Ferrari's first world title since 1979

2006 Announces retirement after winning Italian Grand Prix at end of the season
2009 Comes out of retirement and signs three-year contract with Mercedes GP

2012 Retires from F1 after worst season
2013 In critical condition after skiing accident in the French Alps

Records

Championships 7
Starts 307
Wins 91
Pole positions 69

Source: Michael Schumacher website, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2013 MCT

Environment

FOOD FOR MILLIONS AT RISK

By CRAIG WELCH
THE SEATTLE TIMES

HOGA ISLAND, Indonesia—He sat shirtless on his thin bamboo floor in a home built on posts rising out of the Banda Sea.

Tadi had just returned in his dugout canoe from scanning crevices in a nearby reef for octopus. He and his neighbors spend every day this way—scouring the ocean for something to eat or sell. Fishing, here, is about survival.

Their stilt village has no industry, no land, no running water. They dive without oxygen, wearing hand-carved wooden goggles, and carry spear guns hacked from logs with their machetes. They eat what they catch and sell the rest, using the money to buy everything else they need: boat fuel, root vegetables, rice, wood.

Without fishing, “how would I feed my family?” asked Tadi, who like many Indonesians has only one name.

Now Tadi’s community, like countless others across the globe, is on a collision course with the industrialized world’s fossil-fuel emissions.

Hundreds of millions of people around the world rely on marine life susceptible to warming temperatures and ocean acidification, the souring of seas from carbon dioxide emitted by burning coal, oil and natural gas. That includes Northwest oyster growers and crabbers in the frigid Bering Sea, who now face great uncertainty from shifts in marine chemistry.

But from Africa to Alaska, many coastal communities face a substantially greater risk. These cultures are so thoroughly dependent on marine life threatened by CO₂ that a growing body of research suggests their children or grandchildren could struggle to find enough food.

The science of deciphering precisely who might see seafood shortages remains embryonic.

But with many of the most at-risk coastal communities already facing poverty, marine pollution, overfishing and rising seas, the potential for calamity is high.

“I can’t tell you how many people will be affected,” said Sarah Cooley, at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, who studies links between acidification and food security. “But it’s going to be a very big number.”

Said Andreas Andersson, an acidification and coral reef expert with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego: “These people are literally going to be fighting for their lives.”

Among the most vulnerable to changing ocean conditions are people like Tadi and his 1,600 fellow villagers—even if they don’t quite view it that way yet.

From his elevated perch sheltered from the midday sun, Tadi could see huts with wispy thatch roofs connected by the rickety planks of his village boardwalk. Everything stood a dozen feet above emerald waters.

Like many in his village, he’s uncertain of his age. But for as long as he can remember, Tadi has netted, trapped,

Who depends on fish for nutrition

This map shows what percentage of animal protein consumed by residents of each country came from fish in 2008.

■ Less than 10% ■ 10 to 20% ■ 20 to 30% ■ More than 30%



Source: Earthtrend database, World Resources Institute, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times
© 2013 MCT

hooked or speared grouper, snapper, wrasses and parrotfish. Sometimes the men in his village disappear to the open sea for days to chase small tuna.

Women swarm the tide flats gathering clams, sea cucumbers, urchins and sea grass. They then paddle to a fish market on nearby Kaledupa Island, where even meaty catches fetch just a few dollars.

Among his peers, Tadi is considered one of the best spear fishermen. And no wonder: He said he stabbed his first fish when he was barely older than a toddler.

That childhood in the ocean left an impression. Every animal seemed huge. Sea life teemed wherever he looked.

“I could choose with my spear whatever fish I want,” Tadi said through a translator. “I never caught any small fish.”

Tadi taught his son, Laoda, to fish this way. Laoda has since taught his son, Adi.

The Sama people, or Bajau, are known as sea gypsies or sea nomads because they once lived mostly on boats. They roamed Southeast Asia between Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia, living off the sea, until governments began encouraging them to settle. Tadi’s offshore village was built in the late 1950s.

Today, up to a million sea nomads are sprinkled throughout the Coral Triangle. Their lives are a blend of old ways and new.

Some divers in Tadi’s village ruptured their eardrums as kids to make equalizing easier. Women dab their faces with rice paste for sunscreen. Villagers stack dead coral for support around the poles that hold their homes. Even fishing weights are sometimes homemade, forged by melting lead in aluminum cans over small open fires and pouring it into wooden molds.

Diesel generators provide electricity a few hours each night, and some residents use it to power televisions. Some fishermen wear expensive dive watches. On a mound of coral rubble beneath one hut is a surprisingly well-maintained billiard table.

After centuries of traveling far and wide, the Bajau’s relocation concentrated their human waste and limited the range of their fishing. This happened just as some in their village adopted the destructive practices of Asia’s worst fishing fleets. A few here fish with coral-destroying bombs or cyanide. Some from the village and nearby islands gather colorful reef fish for sale to the aquarium trade. Commercial trawlers from elsewhere cause more damage. It all takes a toll.

“There’s been a pretty substantial decrease in their catches per amount of effort since the 1990s,” said Paul Simonin, a Cornell University graduate student who has tracked Bajau fishing data.

Tadi’s neighbors and nearby island communities still land plenty of fish, but their reefs have seen better days. Everyone works a bit harder to find food.

And a coming storm from CO₂ will only make things worse.

Scientists are still navigating the complex ways carbon dioxide can alter the marine world. But some impacts are clear.

Rising temperatures already wreak havoc on corals. Warming waters can cause corals to eject the algae that give them their vibrant color, weakening or killing reefs and turning them white. This process is known as bleaching. Without reductions in global emissions, 90 percent of reefs by midcentury are projected to see severe bleaching episodes every year.

Ocean acidification will just compound the problem.

A quarter of the CO₂ spewed by cars and power plants winds up in the ocean. That lowers the pH, makes waters more corrosive and reduces carbonate ions, which then makes it harder for marine creatures to build their shells and skeletons.

Acidification can directly harm animals throughout the food web, from microscopic plankton to some fish. It endangers corals, weakening their skeletons, inhibiting growth, and increasing the likelihood of bleaching. In fact, acidification even accelerates the dissolution and breakdown of the reef.

Together, souring seas and warming can be worse than the sum of their parts.

“Temperature has zapped a lot of reefs so far, but longer-term effects are likely to come from acidification,” said Charles Sheppard, a professor at England’s University of Warwick who studies climate-change impacts on coral reefs.

These ocean changes may not directly hit the octopus and fish Tadi catches, but will almost certainly rearrange the foods available for those creatures to eat. And loss of coral, by itself, usually translates to fewer fish and marine creatures—often substantially fewer.

Earlier this month, researchers working on reefs naturally bathed in CO₂ in Papua New Guinea reported finding half as many small invertebrates—crabs, shrimp, sand dollars, marine worms—as on healthy corals.

“Think about a coral reef as a city, a lot of buildings and houses,” Andersson said. “Without the houses, you have no inhabitants.”

Scientists are still learning how much—or how little—marine life might adapt. Some corals appear more resilient than others, and bleaching doesn’t always ruin healthy reefs, said David Kline, a coral and climate

change scientist at Scripps.

But reefs across Southeast Asia, in particular, already are a fraction of what they once were, according to a 2007 analysis. And reefs taxed by pollution or overfishing are more susceptible to mat-forming algae. In the worst cases, after bleaching, this weedy slime can smother corals for good.



In the grassy shallows a few hundred yards from Tadi’s hut, his neighbor Mbilia sat curled in her canoe, plucking sea urchins from the water and halving them with her machete.

She could not even contemplate a reef with almost no fish. The prospect, to her, seemed amusing.

“I am an old woman,” Mbilia said. “I’m not thinking a lot about that.”

Tadi and Laoda usually don’t think about it much, either. But there are days when fishing is so slow it’s a possibility they just can’t ignore.

“Sometimes we eat everything in one day,” Laoda said. “But if we can’t find anything, we don’t eat.”

Some Bajau don’t believe humans can alter the marine world. Even harder to grasp is the possibility that actions now could cause future decay. For some here, successful fishing is dictated by the whims of testy sea gods.

“They do not see a cause-and-effect relationship the way we do,” said Julian Clifton, a University of Western Australia professor who has studied Tadi’s village. “The Bajau get characterized as backward because they don’t get this idea. But their relationship with time is different from ours. They live in a sort of constant present.”

It’s in part why villagers don’t know their own ages.

If fishing worsens dramatically for Tadi, options appear limited. Fishermen could keep pushing out into the ocean, or the village could fold up and move away, or turn to fish farming. The first might be possible. The second two are much harder.

The Bajau are short on money and clout. They remain among the region’s poorest coastal residents, an ethnic minority often disparaged by others. And by the time they could face real trouble, others around the world may have similar problems, straining resources that otherwise might help.

At least 6 million people in 99 countries fish coral reefs, according to research published in the journal PLOS One in June. Another 400 million or more are tied indirectly to coral. Indonesia alone is home to nearly 1,000 inhabited islands, many of which are filled with people who depend on reefs.

“In the 15 or 16 countries we’ve surveyed, 50 to 90 percent of their protein comes from fish,” said Johann Bell, a fish expert helping Pacific Island nations deal with threats to seafood. “It’s a huge problem. There are going to be many who just fall below the radar.”

This report was produced, in part, with funding from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Life & Style

Family feuds over child of sister facing jail time

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Nicole" faked several pregnancies to keep her boyfriends around until they wised up. She is now really pregnant by a married man.

Nicole has a long criminal history and has been in and out of jail for various offenses. She's now facing drug charges that could land her in jail for the next 10 or 15 years. If she's found guilty, my mother will get custody of the baby so it won't have to stay in foster care.

My parents are in their late 50s and financially capable, but they're not in the best of health. Mom plans to raise the child until Nicole gets out of prison because my sister "always wanted to be a mom."

My husband and I have been discussing adopting a child and would love to adopt Nicole's baby. If we did, we'd get a child and could provide the love, safety and security my sister cannot. And the child would get a stable home. Mom feels Nicole "deserves" to be a mom, despite the fact that she's going to jail and flits from man to man searching for someone to love her.

How can I get my mother to see that the needs of this baby HAVE to come first? She should be more concerned with this innocent baby than her drugged-out daughter. Am I wrong to feel hurt and think my mother is choosing her over me?

HEARTBROKEN IN ALABAMA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Stop personalizing this as a choice your mother is making between you and your sister. Try instead to make her understand how traumatic it will be to a child who could be as old as 10 or 15 to be handed over to a virtual stranger who has no job, no money and a long uphill climb to try and build a future.

Your sister may have always dreamed of motherhood, but the most important part of being a parent—aside from loving a child—is being PRESENT. If your sister is found guilty, she will be absent long after her child's primary attachments will have formed.

If this doesn't convince your mother to change her mind, you will have no choice but to accept her decision and consider adopting another child.

P.S. Perhaps your father will understand that what you're proposing makes sense and will speak on your behalf.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my late 20s, single and have no children. I have lived on my own since I was 18. I own my home, my car and have no credit card debt, but my mother refuses to acknowledge me as an adult.

When I do simple chores or cook meals, she acts surprised. She constantly pleads with me to move back home because she insists I can't take care of myself and refuses to discuss it any further than belittling me.

My friends say what she's doing constitutes abuse. I'm not sure I agree, but I do think it is rude and manipulative. How can I deal with her condescending attitude when I'm with her?

AT MY WIT'S END

DEAR WIT'S END: Most parents strive to make their children independent. Your mother may want you home not because you can't take care of yourself but because she doesn't want to live alone. I wouldn't call that abuse but I do consider it to be selfish and self-serving.

You should not sacrifice your lifestyle to live with someone as manipulative as your mother. When she attacks, laugh and deflect her with humor. Assure her that as incompetent as she thinks you are, you're "muddling through." And if she persists, point out that if she doesn't ease up, she'll be seeing less of you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—NASA officials say the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster "should never be trivialized" in response to a new song from Beyoncé that features an audio sample recorded just after the craft exploded on takeoff in 1986, killing all seven crew-members.

The space agency issued the statement late Tuesday after the pop star began to receive criticism from Challenger families and others for using the short sample that includes the words "major malfunction" as an allusion to a failed relationship.

"The Challenger accident is an important part of our history; a tragic reminder that space exploration is risky and should never be trivialized," said the statement from Lauren B. Worley, NASA's press secretary. "NASA works every day to honor the legacy of our fallen astronauts as we carry out our mission to reach for new heights and explore the universe."

NASA's response came after Beyoncé explained the use of the short snippet in a statement to ABC News Tuesday that stopped short of an apology. The sample appears at the beginning of her song "XO" from her new self-titled album.

Among those critical of the



In this Feb. 3, 2013 file photo, recording artist Beyoncé performs at Super Bowl XLVII, in New Orleans.

sample was June Scobee Rodgers, widow of Challenger commander Dick Scobee. She told ABC in a statement that she was disappointed and described the use of the sample as "emotionally difficult."

"My heart goes out to the families of those lost in the Challenger disaster," Beyoncé's statement said. "The song 'XO' was recorded with the sincerest intention to help heal those who have lost loved ones and to remind us that unexpected things happen, so love and appreciate every minute that you have with those who mean the most to you. The songwriters included the audio in tribute to the unselfish work of the Challenger crew with hope that they will never be forgotten."

Beyoncé released her new self-titled "visual album" earlier this month that included 14 songs and 17 videos. Much of the initial discussion about the album had to do with its surprise release and platinum sales until the reaction to the Challenger sample began to circulate.

"XO" is about a failing relationship and taking the time to appreciate what one has in the moment because life changes.

Beyoncé's publicist did not return messages left Tuesday by The Associated Press.

'Selfie,' 'twerk' top school's annoying word list

DETROIT (AP)—A Michigan university has issued its annual list of annoying words, and those flexible enough to take selfies of themselves twerking should take note.

In addition to "selfie" and "twerking," there was a strong sense among those who nominated words to this year's list that the word "hashtag" and term "Mr. Mom" had both run their course.

"Selfie," a term that describes a self-taken photo, often

from a smartphone, led the way among the more than 2,000 nominations submitted to Lake Superior State University's 39th annual batch of words to banish due to overuse, overreliance and overall fatigue.

Even President Barack Obama got into the act this month when he took a well-publicized selfie with other world leaders in South Africa for Nelson Mandela's memorial service.

"It's a lame word. It's all about me, me, me," wrote Da-

vid Krieger of Lake Mills, Wis. "Put the smartphone away. Nobody cares about you."

Since 1975, the list has grown to more than 800 words, many from the worlds of politics, sports and popular—maybe too popular—culture.

"The list is made up completely from nominations. We don't just sit around and think of words that bug us," said Tom Pink, a spokesman for the school in Sault Ste. Marie, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Michelle Obama adds to support for ABC's Roberts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michelle Obama is leading an outpouring of support for Robin Roberts after the "Good Morning America" news anchor's first public acknowledgement of her 10-year, same-sex relationship with massage therapist Amber Laign. The first lady wrote Monday on Twitter: "I am so happy for you and Amber! You continue to make us all proud."

In a Facebook post Sunday, Roberts thanked her "long-time girlfriend" for providing encouragement during Roberts' battle with myelodysplastic syndrome, a rare blood and bone marrow disease.

Many celebs also took to Twitter to send Roberts mes-



Obama

sages, including Ellen DeGeneres, who tweeted, "Good morning, America! Congratulations."

Comedian Wanda Sykes wrote, "Go on with your bad self!" Country singer Chely Wright, who came out

in 2010, also expressed support through the social media site.

Bon Jovi has year's top-grossing global tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Bon Jovi not only has the year's top tour, but the rock band has achieved a career high.

The New Jersey-based act's worldwide tour grossed \$259.5 million this year, topping Pollstar's annual top 20 list and setting a record for the band itself.

Beyoncé is second with \$188.6 million. She ended her tour last week in Brooklyn, New York. Pink, Justin Bieber, and Bruce Springsteen round out the top five.

The global concert business scored a record year with the top 20 tours, earning \$2.43 billion

in primary ticket sales. It generated \$1.96 billion last year.

The top 20 list also included Taylor Swift, Elton John, Rihanna, Depeche Mode and One Direction. The Rolling Stones' comeback tour ranked twelfth, a notch under Paul McCartney.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Dec. 30, 2013:

TOP SONGS

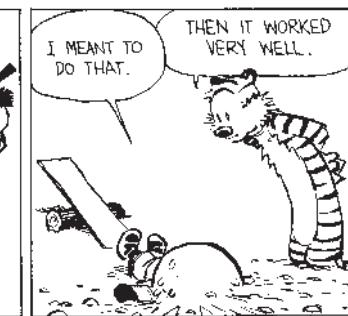
1. "Timber (feat. Ke\$ha)", Pitbull
2. "The Monster (feat. Rihanna)", Eminem
3. "Counting Stars", OneRepublic
4. "Say Something", Christina Aguilera, A Great Big World
5. "Royals", Lorde
6. "Dark Horse (feat. Juicy J)", Katy Perry
7. "Demons", Imagine Dragons
8. "Let Her Go", Passenger
9. "Story of My Life", One Direction
10. "Roar", Katy Perry

TOP ALBUMS

1. "BEYONCÉ", Beyoncé
2. "Frozen", Various Artists
3. "Midnight Memories", One Direction
4. "The Marshall Mathers LP2", Eminem
5. "Pure Heroine", Lorde
6. "Night Visions", Imagine Dragons
7. "PRISM", Katy Perry
8. "NOW That's What I Call Music, Vol. 48", Various Artists
9. "The 20/20 Experience - 2 of 2", Justin Timberlake
10. "Bangerz", Miley Cyrus

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



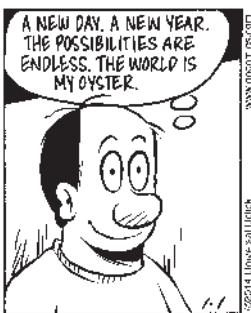
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



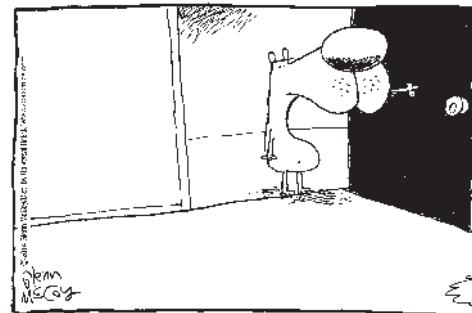
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Icelandic saga
- 5 Tier
- 8 Impale
- 12 Life stories
- 13 Overwhelm
- 14 Forum garment
- 15 Martial arts movie legend
- 17 Portent
- 18 Walk
- 19 Lowered the lights
- 21 — chi
- 22 Remain
- 23 Leon Uris book, with "The"
- 26 Trawler need
- 28 Brilliance
- 31 "Sad to say..."
- 33 Knightly address
- 35 Present
- 36 Squander
- 38 A billion years
- 40 Greek vowel
- 41 Exam format

DOWN

- 43 Movie studio
- 45 Beethoven's "Moonlight," for one
- 47 Cow sounds
- 51 Humdinger
- 52 "Do the Right Thing" director
- 54 Works with
- 55 Moment
- 56 Laugh-a-minute
- 57 The Bee —
- 58 Erstwhile acorn
- 59 Boy dolls
- 60 "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men" writer
- 61 Group of musicians
- 62 "Would — to you?"
- 63 "PLAY LIS NASAL JUSTICE ABE TAX IRAN MAXIMUM SNARE SIX SUE BORAX EAR SAT ENID PALIMONY TYPE IRE AMOK AXES CENS GENIC
- 64 Movie
- 65 Phony coin
- 66 English river
- 67 "Would — to you?"
- 68 "Would — to you?"
- 69 Night light
- 70 Obtains
- 71 Tiny veggie

Solution time: 21 mins.



Tuesday's answer

12-31

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kate Bosworth, 31; Dax Shepard, 39; Taye Diggs, 43; Cuba Gooding Jr., 46.

Happy Birthday: A year packed full of unexpected situations will make you think. Staying focused and not venturing too far off course will be your guide to success. Observing without feeling the need to follow the crowd will help you avoid getting tangled in other people's business. Streamline your course of action and follow through. Romance and a healthy lifestyle are highlighted. Your numbers are 4, 18, 21, 26, 30, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Rethink your strategy, lifestyle and current direction. Get back to basics and concentrate on making changes that count. Recognize your passion and you'll find a way to turn it into a paying job you want to pursue. ☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take time to talk to your peers or to research something you'd like to pursue this year. You don't have to make an abrupt change in your life, but giving yourself time to consider the possibilities will lead to something good. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be versatile. Offer suggestions and hands-on help to someone who has done favors for you in the past. Start out the year by paying back and it will make you feel good. Make plans to chill with a friend. ☀☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make sure that you are on the same page as anyone you are personally or professionally involved with. Partnerships should take priority

and setting up a guideline to ensure fairness will help you move forward seamlessly. ☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may need a change, but before you make an impulsive move, you are best to take care of pressing matters that may affect your reputation. Expect someone to pose a problem for you if you aren't mindful of what others want. ☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep moving, conversing and making your suggestions heard. The more you interact, the more information you will gather and the further ahead you'll get. Refuse to let a last-minute incident stifle romantic plans. Focus on enhancing your love life. ☀☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep the peace. Protect your home, your family and your future. Refrain from overreacting or making an unnecessary move that could be costly. Concentrate on work, your performance and getting ahead. It's what you accomplish and how that will spare you grief. ☀☀☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): You've got all the right moves and words to make a difference. Don't hold back; push for what you want and don't worry about what others do or say. It's up to you to make things happen. Your courage will be impressive. ☀☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An investment will pay off. A change at home or to the way you live looks inviting. Express your thoughts and plans and you will gain support. Don't fold under pressure. Do things your way and don't look back. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be versatile. Offer suggestions and hands-on help to someone who has done favors for you in the past. Start out the year by paying back and it will make you feel good. Make plans to chill with a friend. ☀☀☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make sure that you are on the same page as anyone you are personally or professionally involved with. Partnerships should take priority

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have plenty to contend with when dealing with peers, friends or relatives. Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself until you are certain you can live up to any promise you want to make. Arguing will be futile. ☀☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Reflecting on the past can help you move forward. Problems with a boss, government agency, institution or even a legal matter must be dealt with diplomatically. A change in health, finances or emotional wellness is apparent. Proceed with caution. ☀☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Care, share and offer what you can to your friends, colleagues or those you have worked with in the past. What you do for others will bring you high returns. There is money to be made. Propose a deal or draw up a contract. ☀☀☀

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, aggressive and productive. You are changeable and progressive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	3				6	5		
1		7	4			3		
8		3				1		
3		6				7		
	7	6			1	3		
2		5				8		
4		8				6		
9		1		7		2		
8	7			3	1			

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Tuesday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	7	8	6	5	9	4	3
6	5	9	2	4	3	1	8	7
8	4	3	9	1	7	6	5	2
2	6	1	3	7	4	8	9	5
7	8	4	5	2	9	3	6	1
3	9	5	6	8	1	7	2	4
4	1	8	7	5	6	2	3	9
5	3	2	1	9	8	4	7	6
9	7	6	4	3	2	5	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

By DAVID OUELLET

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AARON PAUL

Solution: 7 letters

N	S	P	M	S	B	O	N	S	E	H	T	R	O	N
S	O	L	U	A	A	C	I	N	O	R	E	V	S	A
S	O	I	A	N	S	H	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	N
B	D	U	S	I	K	C	A	B	O	L	N	M	J	O
I	S	R	N	S	C	D	O	Z	S	O	R	L	U	C
G	K	Y	A	D	I	R	Y	T	B	R	L	I	D	I
L	K	K	M	W	T	M	E	N	E	A	F	G	M	
O	R	P	I	M	A	R	A	M	C	S	E	M	I	P
V	O	E	Ⓐ	N	E	I	A	R	M	L	O	T	N	O
E	T	L	D	ⓧ	K	E	E	C	I	O	S	R	G	S
D	C	I	O	E	R	P	L	N	K	O	C	L	A	S
Q	A	D	S	D	E	E	A	S	H	O	R	T	M	I
S	U	R	Y	E	O	T	H	G	I	N	O	Y	B	
S	A	A	L	N	W	H	I	S	P	E	R	R	L	
P	D	S	A	Y	K	R	I	U	Q	L	A	T	E	

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Must be able to work flexible time.

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3 BR House, furnished, quiet place w/ garage & yard-\$550 OBO

1 Bedroom concrete apartment, furnished-\$350 OBO

Studio-type apartment, furnished, nice & quiet place-\$250 OBO

LOCATION: AS LITO, PAGAO

FOR INQUIRIES: CALL 287-7767 or 256-3864

Must see to appreciate.

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Snack Shop Attendant \$6.00/hour. Multi-lingual highly preferred. Call 285-3838 for interview

www.saipantribune.com

Atlas Marine Co. is searching for a Vessel Maintenance/Paint technician for expanded service. Work experience 5years or more required. Position pays \$5.55/hr, 40hrs per week. Contact 670-285-7900.



Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfquam@pte.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Job Vacancy Announcement

Creel Technician/Biologist – Rota

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in conjunction with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), will be initiating a pilot fisherman creel survey on the island of Rota, CNMI. The survey will consist of interviewing fisherman to obtain fishing effort data and identifying and measuring catch from both shore- and boat-based fishing activities.

NOAA and DFW are seeking motivated individuals who can identify reef fish and pelagic fish species, who can work and communicate effectively with local fishermen, who have an understanding of the Rota fishing communities and who can work nights and/or weekends as scheduled.

Potential candidates will have to have a valid business license, CNMI driver's license and dependable vehicle prior to the award of the contract.

For more information please contact Steve McKagan at (670) 234-0004 or at steven.mckagan@noaa.gov.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB 14-COTA/FTA-041



SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 13, 2014

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) FARE CARD SYSTEM UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER, DECEMBER 19, 2013 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR, NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING, ISA DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO

SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. FO122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION

Plaintiff, : NO. 12-0227

-v-

MANUEL CH. SANTOS AND ANA RITA SANTOS, aka ANA RITA PALACIOS CABRERA, : Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 8, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 637, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 18, dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4286, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 3, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of November, 2013.

/S/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF
PETITION FOR THE CHANGE OF NAME OF
JUNE BIANCA REAL LAPINIG
CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0618-FCD

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ON January 23, 2014 at 10:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in Courtroom 205A, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Superior Court, located at the Guma Husticia, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, USA, the CNMI Superior Court will hear and rule upon the Petition of Ms. June Bianca Real Lapinig to change her name to June Bianca Lapinig Frink. A copy of the Petition and the documents filed in support of the Petition are available upon request in the court file or upon timely request delivered to Mr. Sean E. Frink, whose contact information is below. Anyone must file any opposition you may have to such Petition before the hearing date at a time and date as required by the law and Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure and may appear, either personally or by legal representative, at the hearing.

Dated: December 31, 2013.

/s/ Sean E. Frink

MARIANAS LEGAL STRATEGY GROUP, LLC
Flame Tree Building, 2nd Floor
Isa Drive, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No. 670.322.9991
Sfrink@Marianaslaw.Com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2001, WHITE, LINCOLN LIMOUSINE;

9 PASSENGER CAPACITY IN GOOD CONDITION.

ASKING PRICE \$5,000 OR

BEST OFFER.

CONTACT FIESTA
RESORT AT 234-6412
AND ASK FOR RONEL SUNGA OR RONNIE ANO.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

10-Heavy Equipment Mechanic Rate: \$5.60 \$ to \$7.25 per hour

Must be a h/s grad w/ min of 2 yrs exp as H.E. Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, used in construction. Must be able to work flexible time.

05 -Painters Rate: \$5.60 to \$6.50 per hour

Must be a h/s grad w/min of 2 yrs exp. as a Painter To paint walls, equipment buildings, bridges and other structural surfaces, using brushes rollers and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency. Must be able to work flexible time.

All positions close on Jan 08, 2014. Applications are available at GPPC Inc office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

/s/ MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

Hiring Bartender @ Zebra

Must have a minimum of at least 2 years or more related work experience.
Located at Paseo De Marianas, Beach Road Side.
For more information, please call 789-7856

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) General Manager

- Minimum of 2 years experience in the Bar Business
 - Preferably someone who speaks Japanese
 - Monthly-based starting salary \$1,000.00
- Interested applicants please call 789-7856 for more information.
WTT (USA) LLC.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities

High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

*L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.*

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

Operations Clerk (01)

Job Duties: Plan, create, arrange and operate tour and travel programs. Responsible for organizing and preparing tour itineraries to make sure meeting visitors requirements. Provide and organize vacation and holidays packages by coordinating and negotiating with airlines, hotels, ground transportation services, tour guides and sightseeing providers, restaurants and other similar businesses, as per contact and agreed customer service levels. Develop and maintain smooth working relationship with customers and business partners both in China and domestic. Provide advice on sightseeing and shopping activities, report any problems to related supervisor/manager, and solve problems with accommodations, itineraries or service, etc. Perform related administrative tasks such as processing paperwork and maintaining files and working comfortably both independently and within a team. Assist the Department Manager in achieving his/her objectives. Input and update of bookings records. Other duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum of 1 year of operation experience. High school education minimum. Good command of English and Chinese. Good computer skills and familiar with internet applications. Good writing and communication skills. Focus on details and thoroughness. Able to work with a team & under pressure. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Applications may be obtained at the Century Tours, Inc. Office at the Kanoa Resort, Ground Floor located on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan while resumes may be emailed at camille.orallo@saipan.travel. All resumes and applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Department at the Century Tours, Inc. Front Office no later than Thursday, January 2, 2014. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing may be required prior to employment.

*We are an Equal Employment Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.*

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Associate Editor

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Officer

Associates degree in Business Administration, Accounting or any related course. Minimum of 2 years work-related experience in a newspaper or magazine publication. Good oral and written communication skills and proficient in MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint. Must be self-motivated with strong organizational skills to help manage newspaper circulation assignments. Must have dependable transportation and able to work early mornings and evening hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

*Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.*

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Floor Attendant (3)

Position Summary: Responsible for ensuring that the gaming machines floor operate smoothly and for providing a high degree of courteous service to guests during their entertainment experience. Assist the Gaming Floor Supervisor in maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, security and customer satisfaction.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a gaming floor attendant or game room customer service or any combination of experience, education and/or training where gaming operations or gaming floor attendant skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Cashier (3)

Position Summary: Conduct financial transactions for patrons/guests. Exchange coins, tokens, and chips for patrons' money. Issue payoffs and obtain customer's signature on receipt. Count funds and reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Convert gaming checks, coupons, tokens, or coins to currency for gaming patrons. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a game room cashier or casino cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Surveillance Operator

Position Summary: Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Security Officer

Position Summary: Responsible for the safety and well being of guests and fellow employees and protection of company property. Regularly provides escorts of money and persons in money-handling positions. Patrols all sections of property to identify safety hazards and breaks in security. Enforces all company policies and procedures. Maintains and enforces internal security regulations.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a security or police officer or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Bartender

Position Summary: Responsible for operating and maintaining the e-gaming/digital lounge bar during the shift ensuring that the bar, equipment and stock is maintained and cleaned. Ensure that all stock levels are adequate. Mix and serve drinks to patrons, directly or through waitstaff

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a bartender. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about wines, spirits, cocktails and other drink ingredients. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Waiter – Waitress (3)

Position Summary: Take orders and serve food and beverages to customers at tables and all other areas of the e-gaming/digital lounges. Regularly check customers to ensure they are enjoying their food and beverages and take action to correct any problems. Prepare checks or receipts that itemize and total meals/beverages costs.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a waiter/waitress. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to communicate effectively with customers, guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Guest Services/Marketing Supervisor (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for development and execution of marketing, budget and promotional campaigns. Structure and maintain effective VIP and guest services department. Ensure full support is given to junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge. Market the e-gaming/digital lounge internationally and develop and maintain customer contacts in target markets. Ensure effective liaison between guest services and other departments. Identify, develop, or evaluate marketing strategy, based on knowledge of establishment objectives, market characteristics and other relevant factors. Formulate, direct as well as coordinate marketing activities plus policies to promote products and services, working with advertising promotion managers.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 year experience working in a casino guest services department as a guest service/marketing supervisor or e-gaming dubs promoting gaming entertainment and services. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about marketing strategies. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Compensation: All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the HR Office of Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

General Manager, Electronic Gaming (1)

Position Summary: Plan, direct and co-ordinate the operations of a business, division, department or operating unit of Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. Plan and maintain systems and procedures for operating efficiency. Manage staff for optimum performance. Ensure compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws and adherence to and maintenance of policy of confidentiality within the gaming operation; and to produce maximum revenue levels.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent and a certificate in gaming operations or management plus 13 years of successful work experience in one or more gaming operations, 7 years of which must be as a gaming table or gaming machine manager; ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form and the ability to handle multiple tasks; demonstrated experience and ability to manage all table games and must be computer literate. Knowledge and experience in strategic planning; marketing, brand reinforcement; networking, stakeholder communication; financial management, forecasting, budgeting; team building and development; staff management, mentoring, and motivation; organizational, coordination and time management; complete all documentation accurately in accordance with standards and applicable local and federal laws. Ability to work any shift or hours; must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills. Ability to work any shift or hours.

Human Resources Officer (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for planning, development, and implementation of all HR policies, procedures, standards, systems and program; provide supervision and direction as well as coordinate all activities of the Human Resources Office to ensure that all established goals are achieved; Manages and administers a specialized corporate-wide human resource activity such as recruitment, selection and retention, employee relations, compensation, training and development, organizational development, classification, training or benefits and occupational safety. Responsible for major program administration, policy and procedure formulation and implementation involving in-depth communication and analysis.

Position Requirement: Degree or diploma in human resources management, business administration, public administration or equivalent plus 3 years generalist human resources experience or professional level experience in human resources with at least two years supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where personnel skills and managing people are demonstrated; knowledge of the principles and practices of HR management; knowledge of business principles; knowledge of HR relevant legislation and regulations; knowledge of relevant software; knowledge and experience in strategic planning, workforce planning, performance management and HR alignment; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills; computer literate.

Finance Manager (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for the entire function and activities of the Finance Department, for applying accounting principles and procedures to analyze financial information, forecast revenue and expenditures, preparing accurate and timely financial reports and statements and ensuring appropriate accounting control procedures.

Position Requirement: Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business Administration or related area; or four to six years related experience and/or training; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum of three (3) years experience in accounting, in management of financial systems and budgets, financial reporting, financial data analysis and forecasting, auditing, taxation and providing financial advice, preferably in the gaming industry, with progressive supervisory/managerial experience required. Experience as a financial manager who has led a focused, business oriented team. Good oral and written communication skills. Must be a practical, logical and decisive individual with the ability to get the job done. Must be extremely numbers-oriented and computer-literate, with superior spreadsheet skills; proficiency in accounting and Excel software highly preferred.

Executive Assistant (1)

Position Summary: Perform all and/or any combination of clerical duties requiring knowledge of systems, practices, or procedures and use of all types office machines; maintain and control all aspects relating to club management systems; supervise and participate in the Electronic Gaming Machine soft count and the issuing and collection of cash floats to the Bar; and carry out regular audits of Food and Beverage stocks as requested by the Finance Manager.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience in responsible office management providing high level support; be able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology. Proficient computer skills and in-depth knowledge of relevant software such as MS Office Suite. Knowledge of standard office administrative practices and procedures. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Shift Manager (3)

Position Summary: Responsible and accountable for the overall efficient and profitable operation of all operational areas of the e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation. Maintain with the support of all subordinate personnel the highest standards of efficiency, customer service and security, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the corporation. Assume the duties and authority of Operational areas of the Club – Gaming, Bar, waiters/waitresses, security officers and cleaners) the General Manager in his/her absence, and perform any other special duties as requested from time to time by the General Manager.

Position Requirement: Degree in business management or related field or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where gaming operations or gaming management skills and managing people are demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. A minimum of 3 years' experience in casino gaming / slots management/e-gaming machine/table games. Ability to work in a team. Must demonstrate the ability to supervise the activities of others.

Electronic Gaming Machine Technician (3)

Position Summary: Responsible for the efficient running of all electronic gaming machines, servrs and IT systems. Repair, service and maintain electronic gaming machines in order to minimize down time of machines which results in loss of revenue. Organize the activities of maintenance and technician contractors.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED, technical school plus a minimum of 3 years work experience as slots or e-gaming machine technician in a casino or equivalent or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training in e-gaming machine repair, service, and maintenance skills can be demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Knowledge of various types of electronic gaming equipment used on casino floor and demonstrate the skills and ability to diagnose problems, take corrective action necessary, and ensure device is operational as quickly and efficiently as practical.

Gaming Floor Supervisor (2)

Position Summary: Supervise and organize the gaming floor, maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, security and customer satisfaction, in accordance with the procedures and policies of the corporation. Responsible and accountable for the overall efficient and profitable operation of all operational areas of the gaming floor through subordinate personnel. Assume the duties and authority of the Shift Manager in his/her absence, and perform any other special duties as requested from time to time by the General Manager.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years successful work experience in slots or gaming dub or lounge supervisory management or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where personnel skills and managing people or managing gaming floor supervision or operation are demonstrated.

Guest Services Officer (2)

Position Summary: Responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the guest services desk on a designated shift. Ensure full support is given to visiting junkets, premium players and VIP's visiting the e-gaming/digital lounge.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years successful work experience as a guest services officer in a casino , slots or gaming club or lounge or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where guests services skills are demonstrated. Able to communicate clearly in and possess a good command of verbal and written English. Excellent Public Speaking and communication skills. Must be computer literate with effective negotiating and problem solving skills.

Compensation: All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the HR Office of Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is January 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Aldridge leads Trail Blazers over Thunder



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—After dropping two straight games on last-second shots, the Portland Trail Blazers were determined not to let it happen again on Tuesday night against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 14 rebounds and the Blazers rallied from a 13-point second-half deficit to beat the Thunder 98-94 in a showdown of Western Conference heavyweights.

Damian Lillard added 21 points and 11 assists and hit a pair of clinching free throws with 2.1 seconds left for Portland, which beat Oklahoma City for the second time in December. Portland (25-7) snapped a two-game losing streak but still trails Oklahoma City (25-6) by a half-game in the Northwest Division standings.

Before Tuesday, Portland had lost consecutive games for the first time all season, falling to Miami on Saturday and at New Orleans on Monday. But this time, it was the Blazers who made the winning plays in the final moments.

"It was huge," Lillard said. "The better teams in the league, a lot of times, they don't lose two in a row. They hardly ever lose three in a row. We knew that that's not something we wanted to deal with, losing three in a row, especially after two heartbreakers. (Tuesday) we defended a lot better, we were focused and we knew what we needed to do coming in. . We just kept with it and grinded it out."

Kevin Durant had 37 points and 14 rebounds for the Thunder, who had won 12 of their last 13 and 20 of the last 22 games before Tuesday. But Durant - harassed by Nicolas Batum's physical defense - managed only one point in the fourth quarter and missed an 11-foot jumper that would have tied the game in the final seconds.

"My teammates told me if I was contested that I probably would have made the shot," Durant said. "I'm sure that's going to replay in my mind for the rest of the night. I wish I could have hit that for my team. We probably would have been in overtime right now."

The Thunder scored only 16 fourth-quarter points and lost for the first time in six New Year's Eve home games since the franchise moved to Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City led by 13 points midway through the third quarter, but Portland chipped away at that lead and took its first lead since the first quarter at 87-86 on two free throws by Aldridge with 3:58 left. Reggie Jackson answered with a jumper to put Oklahoma City back ahead, but Batum's 3-pointer gave Portland a 90-88 lead and the Blazers never trailed again.

"It's a long way to go," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "It shows what we're capable of doing. We have to sustain it. But to get a win like that, after two disappointing losses, and again, getting it in a back-to-back on the road, that's a good win."

Portland led 94-90 after Robin Lopez hit two free throws with 59.1 seconds left. Jackson, who entered the game as the third-best free-throw shooter in the NBA, went 1 of 2 from the line at the other end.

Portland's Wesley Matthews missed a 3-point attempt and Lillard rebounded, but Thabo Sefolosha stole the ball from him and Lillard fouled him. Sefolosha hit both free throws to pull

Oklahoma City within 94-93 with 23.6 seconds left.

Portland's Mo Williams missed two free throws with 15.8 seconds left and Serge Ibaka rebounded for the Thunder, but Lopez swatted the ball away and it went to Matthews, who was fouled by Durant and made two free throws with 9.2 seconds left.

Durant went to the line with 8.2 seconds left and made the first free throw, but missed the second. The rebound was tipped to him, though, and he had an open look but left the shot short. Sefolosha fouled Lillard, who made both free throws to clinch the win.

"That was like a playoff-intensity game in December," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said.

Portland's 16-game streak of 100-point offensive outings ended, though, as the Blazers shot an uncharacteristic 39.6 percent from the field (36 of 91) and 24.2 from 3-point range (8 of 33). Portland did end a three-game losing streak to the Thunder in Oklahoma City.

"When you play (the Thunder), in our division, and you could face them later on, it's always a big game for us," Aldridge said. "We always want to win here or at home. To win it on the road is big for us."

The Thunder are 2-1 since All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook underwent his third surgery since injuring his knee during the playoffs in April. This season, Oklahoma City is 4-2 without Westbrook, who the team has said will be out until after the All-Star break.

Matthews finished with 16 points and Batum added 15 for Portland. Ibaka had 17 points and Jackson added 12 points and six assists for Oklahoma City.

Pacers 91, Cavaliers 76

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 21 points, Roy Hibbert added 19 and Indiana used a dominant fourth quarter to blow out Cleveland.

Indiana has won five straight overall to improve to 25-5. The Pacers have won eight in a row against Cleveland, their longest active streak against any opponent. They limited the Cavs to 3-of-16 shooting and forced seven turnovers in the final period.

Cavaliers star Kyrie Irving injured his left knee in the third quarter and will have an MRI on Wednesday. Anderson Varejao led Cleveland with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Cleveland has lost six straight to fall to 10-21.

Kings 110, Rockets 106

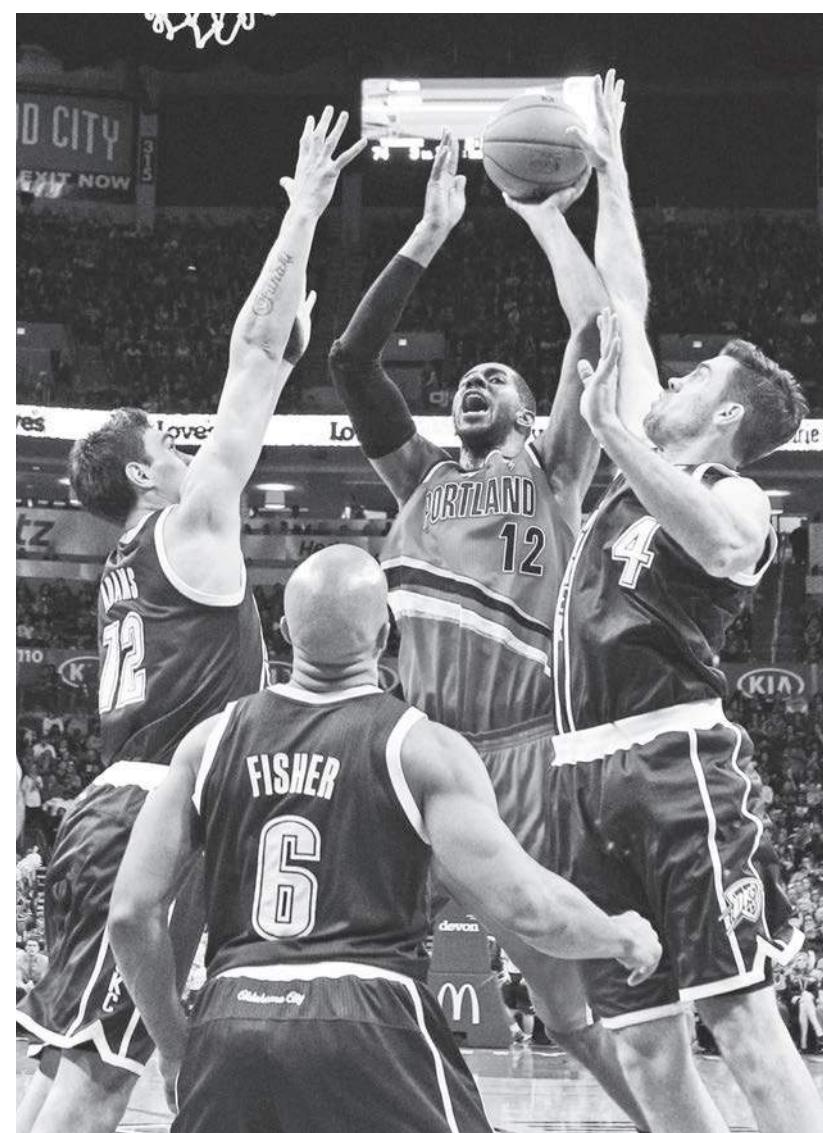
In Houston, Rudy Gay had 25 points and DeMarcus Cousins took over late in the fourth quarter to lift Sacramento past Houston.

The Kings trailed by three points before Cousins scored four quick points to make it 105-104. He then stole the ball from James Harden and passed to Ben McLemore for an easy layup. On the next play, Cousins took a charge from Harden to give the Kings the ball back.

The late comeback ruined a big night by Harden, who finished with a season-high 38 points and had 10 rebounds and two steals.

Spurs 113, Nets 92

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 18 points and San Antonio rolled past listless Brooklyn.



Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) shoots between Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams (12), guard Derek Fisher (6) and forward Nick Collison (4) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013.

Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan had 15 points each and Tiago Splitter and Patty Mills each had 12.

Miles Plumlee and Shaun Livingston had 15 points each to lead Brooklyn. Kevin Garnett was held to two points,

failing to make a field for only the second time in his 19-year career and the first time since 1996.

Hawks 92, Celtics 91

In Boston, Paul Millsap had season

NBA: Foul should've been called on Marion vs. Love

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The NBA has acknowledged the Minnesota Timberwolves were on the short end of an officiating error once again, and the latest one cost them dearly in a loss to the Dallas Mavericks.

Less than 24 hours after the Wolves lost at home to the Mavericks, 100-98, NBA president of basketball operations Rod Thorn announced Tuesday that Kevin Love was fouled on his right arm by Shawn Marion in the closing seconds and should have been awarded two free throws.

Officials Ed Malloy and David Guthrie were near the play, but neither blew their whistle. Marion was awarded a blocked shot on the play that allowed the Mavericks to hang on for an important road victory. Thorn said replays showed Marion did hit Love on his right arm while he raised up to shoot a jumper in the corner.

The acknowledgement held little weight with the Timberwolves, who are trying to chase down the Mavericks in the Western Conference playoff race.

"It's like moral victories," Love said. "You don't really count those. It's just something that we'll just get past."

It's not the first time the Wolves have had to do that recently. They have now been told by the NBA three

times since last March that officials made an error in one of their games. Last season, the NBA said officials shouldn't have ejected J.J. Barea from a game against Miami on March 4 after a confrontation with Ray Allen in the fourth quarter.

Later that month, the league said officials erred in not calling Kobe Bryant for a foul on Ricky Rubio's last-second 3-point attempt that allowed the Los Angeles Lakers to win, 120-117, on March 27.

"Sometimes, it's even more frustrating" when the league acknowledges the mistake, Rubio said Tuesday. "We can't do nothing. If they didn't call it, they didn't call it. That's it. We don't care if they say it was a foul or not. They didn't call it. We didn't have the chance to tie the game, and we lost that game."

But Rubio, Love and Adelman all were quick to point out that the Wolves made plenty of other mistakes themselves to allow the game to get to that point. A lackluster first half had them down by 19 points at halftime and 21 early in the third quarter, and the flat start ultimately cost them.

"The first half, it was terrible," Rubio said. "We aren't gonna blame the ref for that game. ... It was us who put us in that situation."

After the game, Adelman expressed

highs with 34 points and 15 rebounds in Atlanta's comeback victory over Boston.

Jeff Teague added 16 points for Atlanta, including a pair of free that put Atlanta up 92-91 with 1:30 left in the fourth quarter. Kyle Korver scored 14 points and extended his NBA-record 3-pointers streak to 101 games.

Kelly Olynyk scored a career-high 21 points for Boston, and Kris Humphries had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Warriors 94, Magic 81

In Orlando, Fla., David Lee had 22 points and Klay Thompson added 15 in Golden State's victory over Orlando.

Kent Bazemore scored 12 points, and Marreese Speights had 10 to help the Warriors win their sixth straight game. Stephen Curry had nine points, eight assists and five rebounds, but he and the rest of the Warriors' starters sat out the entire fourth quarter.

Arron Afflalo led Orlando with 15 points.

Bucks 94, Lakers 79

In Los Angeles, Brandon Knight scored 18 of his career-high 37 points in the third quarter and Milwaukee handed Los Angeles its sixth straight loss.

Pau Gasol and Nick Young each scored 25 points for Los Angeles. The Lakers shot 35.8 percent from the field and dropped to 13-19.

Raptors 85, Bulls 79

In Chicago, Jonas Valanciunas scored 15 points and Toronto rallied to beat Chicago.

Valanciunas made two free throws to seal the game in the final minute after Toronto had missed three of four from the line down the stretch. Luol Deng led Chicago with 16 points in his return to the court after missing five games due to a sore left Achilles tendon.

what has been a growing concern among the team this season—that Love and, to a lesser extent, Nikola Pekovic aren't getting the respect from the officials that they deserve.

Pekovic, the team's bruising center, often finishes the games with bruises on his arms and shoulders from banging in the paint. But like other heavyweights before him, including Shaquille O'Neal and Yao Ming, his sheer strength can often make it difficult for officials to see him getting fouled.

Love is off to an MVP-caliber start to this season, and Adelman said that it's time for officials to start realizing that.

"He got fouled," Minnesota coach Rick Adelman said. "I wonder what that would have been if (Dirk) Nowitzki, LeBron James, all the top players in the league—a guy reaches on a last-second shot like that, instead of challenging it. Maybe they don't understand that Kevin is one of the top five players in this league. You make that call. But they didn't."

As of late Tuesday afternoon, there was no indication that Adelman would get fined for his comments. And he wasn't interested in revisiting the subject after practice.

"It's over with," Adelman said. "It doesn't do any good to think about it now."

Sources: O'Brien reaches agreement with Texans



STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Bill O'Brien is leaving Penn State's reclamation project in his successor's hands.

Less than two years after replacing Joe Paterno as coach of the Nittany Lions, O'Brien will return to the NFL as coach of the Houston Texans, leaving a proud Penn State program in peril once again.

Two people familiar with the negotiations, speaking to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because an official announcement hasn't been made, said O'Brien reached an agreement Thursday night to coach the Texans.

O'Brien bolted Penn State and a slew of players who pledged their commitment to the program in its darkest hour for the big bucks tossed his way by an NFL team desperately seeking to become contenders in the AFC.

O'Brien, a former offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots, took on perhaps college football's toughest job in January 2012, adopting a program that was rattled by the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal. And despite a lack of scholarships, a bowl ban, an overall sense of doom, and many player defections from the late Paterno's final roster, O'Brien led the Nittany Lions to two winning seasons (8-4, 7-5), restoring some tempered enthusiasm in Happy Valley.

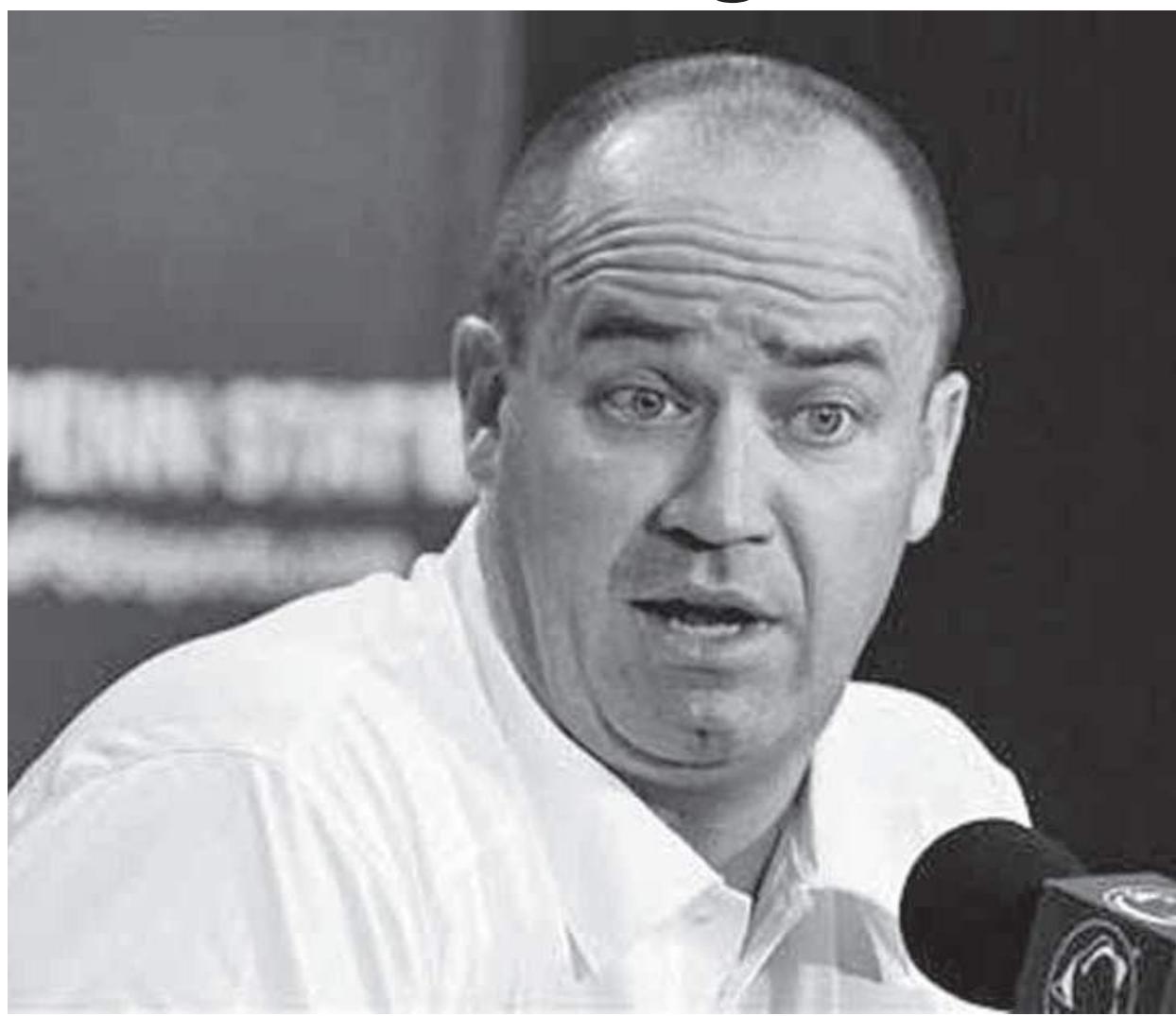
But the Nittany Lions are back to the drawing board this week, after losing O'Brien in a similar circumstance that he turned down last year. After his debut season, O'Brien interviewed with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Cleveland Browns, among others, only to stay in State College.

But the Texans' job was too good to pass up some 12 months later. Whereas the Browns and Jaguars were in the midst of complete overhauls, from the front office to the locker room, Houston is viewed as one of the best jobs in the NFL. The city is crazed for its Texans, there is plenty of talent on the roster—especially on defense—and the AFC South is a division that seemingly is up for grabs every season.

The NCAA penalties handed down in July triggered a clause in O'Brien's contract that extends his deal the length of any sanctions handed down to Penn State, so O'Brien's deal now runs through 2020. O'Brien received a restructured deal last year, after he decided to stay. Though the contract was set to run seven more seasons, a buyout clause will kick in to allow for his exit.

In the eyes of Nittany Nation, though, those are all logistics now. What O'Brien will make elsewhere, and what he's inheriting at the game's highest level, mean little to a fan base and community that has wrapped its arms around not only him, but his family as well. O'Brien tackled the challenge of replacing Paterno—at a critical time in the program's history no less—with ferocity and passion. He changed the culture of the program by, among other things, instituting names on the backs of the jerseys, playing loud music during practice to fire up the players and prepare them for hostile environments, and overhauling the team's offseason weight training program. All along, he was lauded for his efforts.

At the same time, though, he always paid homage to Paterno, and the legacy he built with the Nittany Lions. He said



In this Aug. 8, 2013, photo, Penn State coach Bill O'Brien meets with reporters during the NCAA college football team's media day in State College, Pa.

The coach, who helped lead the Patriots to the Super Bowl in 2011-12, arrived in Happy Valley with sterling credentials; apprenticeships coaching at Brown, Georgia Tech, Maryland and Duke, followed by five years as an NFL assistant on Bill Belichick's staff. He won games, he won over players, and he did so, traditionally, with a stern look on his face.

"A few days before we announced the hiring, I was watching a Patriots game, and I see Bill walk down the sideline, stop in front of Tom Brady, and start yelling," Penn State athletic director Dave Joyner said. "And I'm thinking, 'He's yelling at Tom Brady! Tom Brady! Who's maybe only the best quarterback ever?' Right about then, I said to myself, 'We got the right guy. He's plenty tough enough.'"

His teams at Penn State took on that identity. After a lackluster start—O'Brien lost to Ohio and Virginia to open his career—Penn State rattled off five straight wins, and finished the year with a rousing 24-21 win over Wisconsin at home.

This season, the Nittany Lions started off better—wins over Syracuse and Eastern Michigan opened the year—but dealt with inconsistency issues along the way. All that said, like his first season, O'Brien closed with a flurry, defeating the Badgers, this time in Wisconsin, 31-24, to close out the campaign.

"We've said the same thing for two years," O'Brien said after the finale. "Our guys, they practice hard, and they love to play."

It showed.

But it went beyond just the wins and losses. O'Brien, a players' coach if there ever was one, developed bonds with his roster, but never let that get in the way of the task at hand. He needed to grow college football players into Penn State players, and in many cases, he was successful. At a time when the program he inherited was undercut by the defections of the team's best running back, top receiver and its frontline kicker—more than a dozen players in all—he just kept working with what he was given.

When Silas Redd took most of Penn State's running game with him by transferring to Southern California, O'Brien drew on his experience at New England and turned former walk-on quarterback Matt McGloin into an NFL-ready one. After kicker Sam Ficken missed four field goals, including a potential game-winner, O'Brien refused to blame the inexperienced backup and instead had the Nittany Lions try to convert fourth downs in a variety of unlikely situations. His players loved that, and returned every show of loyalty in kind.

"When those things first happened, Coach told us flat-out we wouldn't come out on the other side of the experience unscathed," said John Urschel, a fifth-year senior and All-Big Ten guard. "But the other thing he promised us was an experience we'd never forget."

It's safe to say most of the fan base will never forget O'Brien's tenure either. Whether or not they forgive him for leaving, is another story. But for now, the focus in Happy Valley needs to be on moving forward with someone new, maintaining a sense of calm inside the program, and preparing for unexpected change.

In other words, exactly what the program did just two years ago.

Upon review, Manning's passing record stands

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Peyton Manning's spectacular season was every bit the record-breaking sensation it appeared. The NFL said Tuesday that Manning's single-season mark of 5,477 yards passing will stand.

Elias Sports Bureau, the league's official statistician, reviewed a 7-yard pass from Manning to wide receiver Eric Decker and determined it will remain a forward pass and not a lateral, which would have made it a 7-yard run.

That would have subtracted 7 yards from Manning's total, leaving him with 5,470 yards, six shy of Drew Brees' 2011 record.

"The stats crew at the game scored this play as a forward pass. During the course of a season, there are many similar plays which could be reviewed by the Elias," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said. "In this case, the determination of Elias is that the fairest resolution is for the ruling of the on-site stats crew to stand."

The play in question occurred with just over a minute remaining in the

and did the right things, and made the absolute most of the 24 games he was given at Penn State.

Which, in the end, made him even more marketable to the NFL.

Of course, that is little consolation to Penn State. The Nittany Lions need to prepare for life in the expanded Big Ten next season, and need a new leader to help them do so. While Penn State is still a destination job in college football, the roadblocks are still many as the program continues to build back up, post-Sandusky.

Though there is talk that this may be reduced at some point, Penn State's bowl ban has not been lifted yet, and

first quarter of Denver's 34-14 win at Oakland on Sunday.

Remember that camera angles can be deceiving, depending on where the camera is located. But there were two angles that would back up whichever argument one wants to make.

Manning's pass clearly looks like a lateral in one camera angle. Another angle, from above, however, appears to show Decker gathering in the ball at the Denver 48-yard line with Manning about a foot deeper than that.

Manning finished with 266 yards passing before sitting out the second half, and his final throw was a 6-yard TD toss to Demaryius Thomas which gave him 5,477 yards for the season and also 55 TD passes, five more than Tom Brady's record set in 2007, considered a much more significant achievement than the single-season yardage mark.

With Denver safely ahead 31-0 at halftime and the home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs secured, Manning watched backup Brock Osweiler play the entire sec-

ond half in his place.

Elias routinely reviews plays and often tweaks totals in the days following games, then notifies teams of corrections to totals such as yardage or sack numbers.

Manning broke the TD record two weeks ago at Houston and was all smiles afterward, crediting his coaches and teammates and saying it was a significant mark that meant a lot to him because it came in the midst of a successful season. The Broncos (13-3) are the AFC's top seed in the playoffs for the second straight season. They have a bye this weekend and will host a divisional round game Jan. 12.

He was much more nonchalant about the yardage record.

Had the play in question originally been ruled a lateral, Manning would have finished the first half six yards shy of Brees' record of 5,476 yards, and that might have prompted the Broncos to send him out to start the third quarter even with the big lead and the playoffs looming.

runs through the 2015 season.

Though some scholarships have been restored, there is not the full allotment that other Big Ten schools—including new members Rutgers and Maryland—have at their disposal.

Recruiting season is in full swing right now, a time when anxious high school seniors may cross the Nittany Lions off their list.

And then, of course, there's the remnants of the scandal still lingering. The trials of former Penn State president Graham Spanier, athletic director Tim Curley and vice president for finance Gary Schultz—all accused of trying to cover up the scandal at the

time—are still to be completed. All of this will cloud a field of candidates likely to include many from the college ranks, as well as NFL head coaches and coordinators. Greg Schiano, for instance, has Penn State ties and may want to return to college after two forgetful seasons with the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. While at Rutgers, Schiano was viewed as an Eastern recruiting expert, who built the Scarlet Knights into a consistent bowl-ready program by landing players from New Jersey down to Miami annually.

Schiano would likely be received well in State College, but he is not O'Brien.

Touch down: FSU, Auburn hit SoCal for title game

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Before top-ranked Florida State made its way to southern California for the BCS

championship game against No. 2 Auburn, Seminoles coach Jimbo Fisher had some business to take care of on campus.

Fisher signed a new contract Tuesday that runs through the 2018 season. The deal could signal an end to any plans Texas might have had to hire Fisher to replace Mack Brown.

"We're blessed that we got that out of the way so we can focus on winning a national championship," Fisher said Tuesday during a news conference at the ESPNZone in Downtown Disneyland as he sat next to the crystal football coaches' trophy that will go to the winner Monday night at the Rose Bowl.

Getting out of Tallahassee, Fla., on Tuesday proved a bit tricky for the Seminoles. They were delayed about two hours because they had to wait for a pilot to get clearance to fly.

"It's been a long day," All-America defensive back Lamarcus Joyner said. "It's starting to sink in that we are here."

Florida State (13-0) blew through its competition this season, winning each of its games by at least 14

points. The Seminoles will play for the BCS championship for the first time since the 2000 season. They last won a national title in 1999, under Bobby Bowden.

"This is the ultimate goal that we want to get to," said Fisher, who is in his fourth season as Florida State's head coach.

Auburn had no problem getting to California on Tuesday—though this season was a wild ride.

The Tigers (12-1) were the biggest surprise of the 2013 season. A season after Auburn finished 3-9, did not win a Southeastern Conference game and fired coach Gene Chizik, the Tigers and first-year coach Gus Malzahn won their last nine games—including stunning victories over Georgia and Alabama—to reach the BCS title game for the second time in four seasons.

Now that they're here, the plan is to keep things as routine as possible.

"We're going to try to go about our Tuesday practice, our Wednesday practice, our Thursday practice," Malzahn said, "and do exactly what got us here."

Senior defensive end Dee Ford, who was part of the 2010 national title team at Auburn, said he took a moment today, when the team was heading into Disneyland to appreciate how far the Tigers have come.

"Definitely wanted to enjoy the moment," he said. "It's a blessing. I definitely want to soak in the moment and get focused when it's time to be."

manuel Cobacha also finished in twin digits with his 12 points.

Hula Girls 51, Futball 28

Also maintaining a clean slate was Hula Girls, which improved to a 2-0 mark after easing past Futball (0-2).

Four players scored double figures in Hula Girls' easy victory. Ira Palero led the team with her 12 points, Friendly Joy Pena recorded 11, and Irish Pagaraao and Jan Travilla earned 10 apiece.

Travilla and Palero combined for 16 points in the first half, lifting Hula Girls to a 26-14 advantage at the break. Hula Girls then protected the double-digit margin, as Pagaraao and Pena also lit up the board on multiple

occasions in the second half.

Futball failed to make any headway in the final half to slice the deficit to a decent number. No Futball player finished in twin digits as the best that Jeralyn Castillo could do was score 8 points.

BOYS DIVISION

First Game

FTMP 64 – Montes 18, Francisco 11, Lampkin 11, Lixing 8, Domingo 5, Mora 4, Omengkar 4, Del Rosario 2.

Dream Team 63 – Ito 12, Pagaraao 9, Alipip 6, Abrams 6, Alegre 6, Palero 6, Travilla 5, Pensa 5, Williams 4, Castillo 2, Kautz 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-24, 52-52, 64-63 (OT).

Second Game

Rollers 2 53 – Darag 11, Espinosa 11, Capuyon 8, Manzano 7, Fidelino 7, Cenir 6.

Rollers 5 44 – Caracut 14, Cobacha 12, Ogumoro 8, Yu 7, Mamari 4.

Scoring by halves: 26-19, 53-44.

GIRLS DIVISION

Hula Girls 51 – I. Palero 12, Pensa 11, Pagaraao 10, Travilla 10, Gatchalian 4, Javier 4.

Futball 28 – Castillo 8, Rastguyi 6, Lee 6, Vargas 6, Enriquez 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-14, 51-28.

ers also gained eight points to top Jokers Team Gua'fi in the finals. The divisions champion was unbeaten in the singles wild and crazy cricket and singles Burma and had a split win in partners 501 double in/double out. Jokers Team Gua'fi earned three points in the finale after prevailing in the partners 701 open.

Before thwarting Jokers Team Gua'fi in the finals, Oceanside Hunters secured four wins to advance to the division title game. Oceanside Hunters first ousted Jokers Cripplers and

then whipped Oceanside Sparks in the quarterfinals to gain a semi entry against SOS Dart Knights. Oceanside Hunters went on to seal the finals ticket in the upper bracket after downing the Knights.

In the lower bracket, Jokers Team Gua'fi got a bye in the opening round before surviving Jokers Assassins in the Round of 8. Up next for Jokers Team Gua'fi was Sand Juvy's Dart-A-Holics and the former prevailed anew to set up a title showdown against Oceanside Hunters. (*Roselyn B. Monroyo*)

that will be held next month.

Meanwhile, nominations from the sports administrator, coach, team, and technical officer should be made in writing and must be submitted today before the 7pm meeting.

Besides choosing the top athletes and officials for 2013, NMASA will also select the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame Class 2014. Two individuals have been nominated to join the elite group of CNMI athletes and officials. NMASA will also elect its board of directors for 2014 at the meeting.

Castro. In the girls division, it will be a battle among swimming's Miku Tammy and Angel Tan and tennis' Thea Minor, Mikayla Lopez, and Carol Lee.

McCullough-Stearns and Lopez won the top student athletes plums in 2012. Other awardees in 2012 were Male and Female Athletes of the Year Todd Montgomery and Lia Rangamar, Coach of the Year Jeff Race, and Sports Administrator of the Year Laurie Peterka.

Tonight's winners will be feted in the 2013 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet



In this file photo from Dec. 7, 2013, Florida State head coach Jimbo Fisher, right, holds up a trophy as his son, Trey, left, looks on after the Atlantic Coast Conference Championship NCAA football game in Charlotte, N.C., Florida State defeated Duke 45-7.

Even with Fisher's deal done, the opening at Texas still looms over the national title game.

Texas reportedly has interest in hiring Fisher, and even Malzahn's name has come up as a possible candidate for the Longhorns.

"I think that there's a sense of relief that's it's done but anytime you're one of the top coaches in the country and there's a top program that's open, you're going to be on the list because that institution, Texas, can go and get basically anybody they want," Florida State athletic director Stan Wilcox said. "But I know Jimbo, he's a Seminole. He wants to be with Florida State and we want him to be with Florida State."

Auburn announced Malzahn agreed to a new deal with Auburn the week before the SEC title game.

Fisher and Wilcox said the terms of the deal, which were not released, were agreed upon about three weeks ago.

"But when lawyers get involved, you know how things can take a little while? It wasn't anything bad it was just a matter of dotting the I's and crossing the t's. And then we practiced all the way up until Monday. I was leaving at 6:30 in the morning, getting home 11:30 I wasn't thinking about anything. We got the contract today. The first time I had a chance to sign it."

Fisher's previous deal ran through 2015 and paid \$2.75 million annually. The new deal reportedly pays him about \$4.1 million per season.

Fisher wouldn't be the first college coach to sign a new deal and then bolt for another job shortly after, but the timing does make it seem that he's off the market.

"It's good that we're able to get it done before the championship game," Wilcox said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	14	15	.483	—
Boston	13	18	.419	2
Brooklyn	10	21	.323	5
Philadelphia	9	21	.300	5½
New York	9	21	.300	5½

Southeast Division

Miami	24	7	.774	—
Atlanta	18	14	.563	6½
Washington	14	14	.500	8½
Charlotte	14	18	.438	10½
Orlando	10	21	.323	14

Central Division

Indiana	25	5	.833	—
Detroit	14	19	.424	12½
Chicago	12	18	.400	13
Cleveland	10	21	.323	15½
Milwaukee	7	24	.226	18½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	25	7	.781	—
Houston	21	13	.618	5
Dallas	18	13	.581	6½
New Orleans	14	15	.483	9½
Memphis	13	17	.433	11

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	25	6	.806	—
Portland	25	7	.781	½
Minnesota	15	16	.484	10
Denver	14	16	.467	10½
Utah	10	24	.294	16½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	21	12	.636	—
Phoenix	19	11	.633	½
Golden State	20	13	.606	1
L.A. Lakers	13	19	.406	7½
Sacramento	10	20	.333	9½

32nd Annual Christmas Island Relay Part 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Bombastic 52 runners celebrate their finish.



Road Runner members near the finish line of last Saturday's 32nd Annual Christmas Island Relay.



Cookie Monsters' Harold Aranda, left, and Team Yolanda's Noni Eugenio sprint to the finish line in a battle for third place.



Runners of Team Yolanda pose for a photo after the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Las Command Post in Marpi.



Taste the Rainbow runners hold hands on their way to the finish line.



Cookie Monsters runners do the traditional five-member race to the finish line.



La Vida Loca runners stay closer together on their way to the finish line.



F-5 runners head to the finish line.



Dark Horse runners slow down as they near the finish line.



Jingle Balls runners smile as they near completion of the race.



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agreement
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Aldridge
leads Trail
Blazers over
Thunder
PAGE 24

28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

FTMP outlasts Dream Team in OT



Dream Team's Friend Joy Pena, left, watches an FTMP player go for a fastbreak layup during the first half of their game in the Sun Palace holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROY

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It took Funky Town Monkey Pimps five extra minutes to thwart the Dream Team, 64-63, in the curtain-raiser in the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Neil Francisco and Jason Lampkin delivered the clutch baskets for FTMP in overtime, making 5 points each. Francisco, who was scoreless in the second half after notching 6 early points, dropped FTMP's first and last baskets in the extension with his triple in the closing seconds sealing the victory for the team. Lampkin also canned a triple in overtime, hitting 5 straight points after Francisco opened the extension with a 2-point basket. Dai Lixing scored the other basket for FTMP in overtime.

With the close victory, FTMP barged into the win column and recovered from a 64-71 loss to Rollers 3 in the league opener last week. The all-female crew of Dream Team is still win-

less in two games, falling short against FTMP in overtime after no player on its roster made more than one field goal in the extra period.

Dream Team also missed in overtime the contribution of Kyla Ito, who knocked in 10 points in the second half and helped the squad turn a 24-27 half-time deficit to a deadlock at the end of the regulation. Ito was scoreless in the extra five minutes of play.

Rollers 2 53, Rollers 5 44

In the other boys division game, Rollers 2 kept its perfect record (3-0) after defeating the slumping Rollers 5 (0-3).

Sam Darag and Mike Espinosa topscored for Rollers 2, firing 11 points apiece. They also drew enough help

See FTMP on Page 26

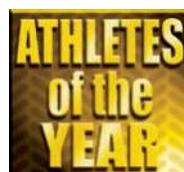


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Oceanside Hunters pose for a photo before an earlier game in the C division of the Bud Light Cup last month.

NMASA selects awardees tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will select the athletes and officials who made notable achievements last year in a meeting tonight at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMASA will vote for the Male and Female Athletes of the Year, Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male and Female Student Athlete of the Year, Team of the Year, and the Male and Female Athlete of the Month.

See NMASA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Former TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola, right, announces the recipient of the Male Student Athlete of the Year award during last year's NMASA Annual Sports Banquet at the Kanoa Resort, while NMASA president Michael White looks on and Gov. Eloy S. Inos waits to present the trophy to the winner.

3 teams top SEDA Bud Light Cup



Three teams ended the year with a bang after bagging title wins in their respective divisions in the 2013 Saipan Electronic Billiards Association Bud Light Cup.

In the Masters division, the Joker Destroyers won the championship after dominating the Jokers Fantastic Baby in the finals, 9-1. In the title match, the Destroyers swept the partners wild and crazy cricket, partners

regular cricket, and partners 701 double in/double 1 and took a 3-1 win in the singles 501 double in/double out to ease past Fantastic Baby.

Jokers Destroyers advanced to the finals after prevailing in the semis against Sand Juvy's Pythons, while Jokers Fantastic Baby eliminated Bammy D'Executioner in the other Final Four pairing.

Joining Jokers Destroyers in the champion circle were Oceanside

See 3 TEAMS on Page 26